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Speed Skaters Make History Helped by Technology, 3 Top Olympic Record

By Christopher Clarey New York Times Service

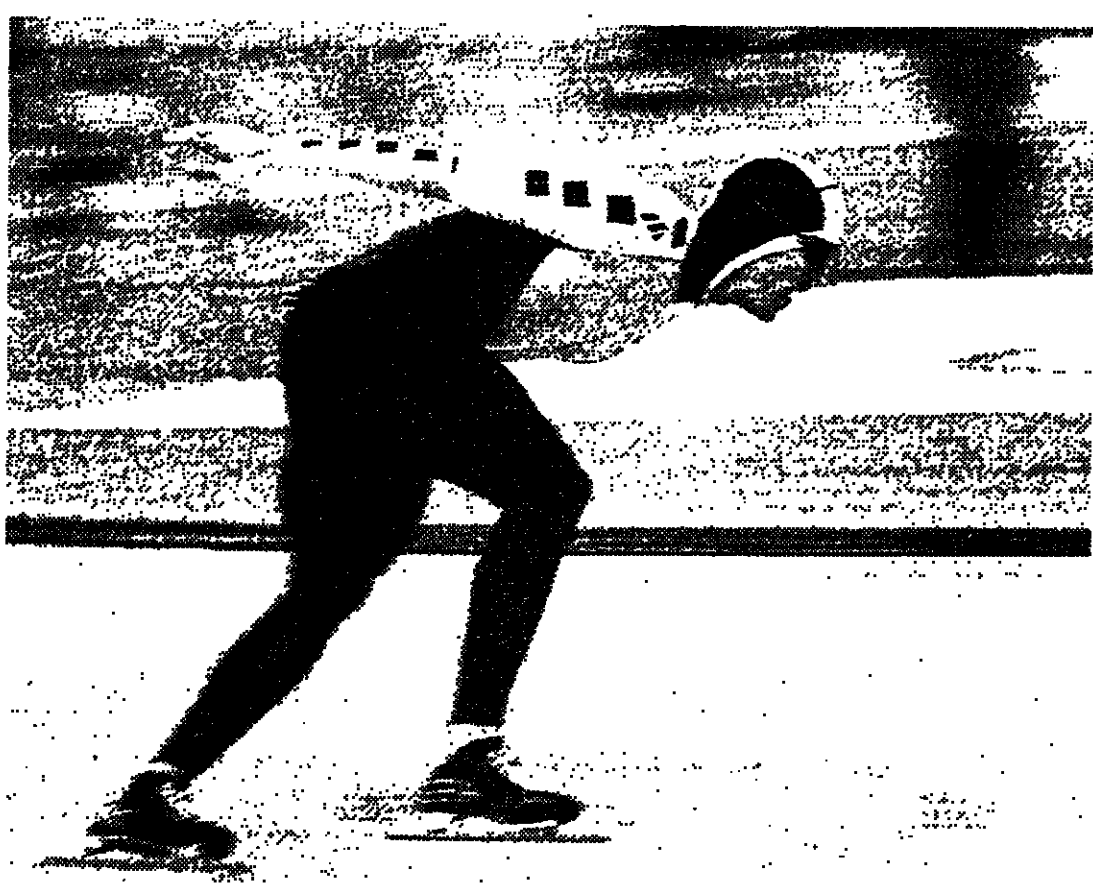
NAGANO, Japan — For the first time in Olympic history, there was clapping on the ice and clapping off the ice, and as is often the case in speed skating, the Dutch made much of the racket.

There has never been an Olympic race quite like Sunday's men's 5,000 meters: the first speed skating event of these Games. In a span of approximately three-quarters of an hour, three different men set and celebrated world records: former Dutch star Bart Veldkamp, who represents Belgium, and his former Dutch teammates Rinje Kisma and Gianni Romme.

But only Romme left the M-Wave arena as a gold medalist, and he did not get the chance to leave until he and his fellow history-makers had answered a flurry of questions about the increasingly decisive role of technology in their labor-intensive sport. Speed skating already has been transformed by the widespread adoption of the clap skate, a century-old device with a hinged blade that no elite skaters had bothered to use until the Dutch took the leap last season. Now, every elite skater uses a version of the clap skate, and after Sunday night, every elite skater may soon be using a version of another Dutch innovation: adhesive, rubberized, wind-tunnel-tested strips that can be attached to a skater's racing suit to improve his aerodynamics.

The Dutch developed the strips with assistance from researchers at the University of Delft, but it

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Gianni Romme of the Netherlands streaking to a speed-skating world record Sunday in Nagano.

Something Old, Something New, and a Little Black and Blue

- As a host of skaters fell, Artur Dmitriev survived the short program, keeping alive the Russian's chance to become the first to win the Olympic pairs skating with different partners. Page 26.
- Ross Rebagliati of Canada became the first Olympic gold medalist in snowboarding, winning the men's giant slalom. The competition finished despite fog that limited visibility. Page 25.
- The U.S. women's hockey team started the sport's debut in the Olympics with a 5-0 victory over China, proving there are opportunities beyond figure skating for women. Page 24.

Saudis Won't Help In Any Raid on Iraq But More NATO Allies Back U.S.

By Steven Lee Myers New York Times Service

JIDDA — With Saudi Arabia refusing to support a military strike on Iraq, Secretary of Defense William Cohen said Sunday that he would not seek permission to launch fighters and bombers from Saudi territory in the event of an attack.

Mr. Cohen's decision not even to ask for the use of more than 100 American aircraft now based in Saudi Arabia — more than half of them combat jets — allows the United States to avoid the political embarrassment of having a request turned down.

Although Mr. Cohen said just last week that he expected "full cooperation" from allies in the Gulf, Saudi Arabia has withheld support for an attack on Iraq, even though it has felt vulnerable to Saddam Hussein's threats and provocations.

The surprise admission came as Mr. Cohen left Europe, where he had sought support for the tough U.S. stand against the refusal by Iraq's president, Saddam Hussein, to cooperate with United Nations weapons inspections.

Mr. Cohen won more support this weekend from Canada and several European allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to use armed force if needed to destroy Iraqi weapons. (Page 8)

The United States has had a sizable force in the Gulf, including more than 300 aircraft and a formidable armada of warships, centered on three aircraft carriers. Mr. Cohen announced, however, that the United States would not keep the three carriers indefinitely. He said the Nimitz, which arrived in the Gulf last autumn, would return to Norfolk, Virginia, naval officials said. The Nimitz left Gulf waters Sunday.

The aircraft carriers Independence and George Washington remain in the Gulf.

As he arrived here Sunday to begin a tour of Gulf states, Mr. Cohen said the commander of American forces in the region, General Anthony Zinni of the Marines, had concluded that a "very substantial" attack could be carried out without the aircraft in Saudi Arabia.

"It's not my intent to make such a request," Mr. Cohen said in an inter-

view with reporters en route to Jidda, "because we don't think it's necessary."

Whatever the necessity, however, a senior aide traveling with Mr. Cohen said the United States had concluded that Saudi Arabia's answer to any request to launch combat jets from its territory would be no.

The Saudis' refusal undercuts efforts by President Bill Clinton's administration to build political support for a punitive attack on Iraq in the growing confrontation over UN inspections of Iraq's chemical and biological weapons programs. Only Britain has so far pledged to join in the attack.

The refusal added significance to Mr. Cohen's order, signed Saturday, dispatching 42 more aircraft to the Gulf.

See IRAQ, Page 8

Dissident Based in U.S. Is Arrested In China

By Steven Mufson Washington Post Service

BEIJING — A U.S.-based Chinese dissident has been seized by the security police in China after slipping back into the country to form an opposition party, reports said Sunday.

Though often criticized by other dissidents, Wang Bingzhang, who was arrested Friday after a nationwide manhunt, is a 15-year veteran of exile politics who has long advocated the founding of an independent political party to challenge Communist control of China.

Mr. Wang appeared to have slipped back into China under an alias to carry out his plan.

But he was detained in the city of Bengbu in central Anhui Province before he was able to take part in the launch of the Justice Party he wanted to set up.

[The police in the eastern city of Bengbu confirmed Sunday that they had detained Mr. Wang after

U.S. clerics set for tour. Page 4.

weeks of tracking his clandestine journey through China. Agence France-Presse reported.

"We are dealing with this case," a spokesman for the Bengbu Police Department said. "If you want any more details, you will have to make a formal application in writing."

Though the Chinese government has recently left unmoored a few individuals in Beijing who have called for greater democracy, Mr. Wang violated one of the Communist Party's cardinal rules by seeking to unite dissidents into a rival political organization.

It remained unclear Sunday whether Mr. Wang was a U.S. citizen or just a permanent resident, or whether either status would help gain his release. Many analysts abroad speculated that Mr. Wang had thought he could take a risk now because he believed that his U.S. papers would get him out of any trouble in China.

Mr. Wang, 50, was one of the first Chinese students sent to study overseas after Beijing began its reforms and reopening under the late senior leader, Deng Xiaoping. He studied medicine at McGill University in Canada.

But in 1982, after graduating, Mr. Wang went to New York and co-founded a dissident magazine, China Spring, and an exile group, the Chinese Alliance for Democracy.

Beijing labeled the organization "reactionary" in 1987 and later called it "counterrevolutionary."

The group was torn by financial problems and leadership splits, and academic sources said Mr. Wang was embroiled in a lawsuit over possible misuse of its funds. In 1989, the group was eclipsed by the flood of Chinese student activists who landed in the United States and France and set up their own organizations.

Mr. Wang decided to return to China to take part in a secret meeting of exiled and domestic democracy campaigners that had been

See CHINA, Page 4

Starr's Tough Tactics Hit a Nerve and Start a Debate

By William Glaberson New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Long before the accusations of investigative leaks and the surreptitious recording of a former White House intern who said she had an affair with President Bill Clinton, federal agents working for the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, showed up at a small-town Arkansas high school with a subpoena for the 16-year-old son of a defendant in a Whitewater case.

"It is difficult to convey the kind of pressure it puts on a father when his own children have been subpoenaed to a grand jury," said Dan Guthrie, a lawyer for the defendant, an Arkansas banker Mr. Starr

charged but failed to convict in a Whitewater-related case.

To supporters of Mr. Starr, including many seasoned prosecutors, such intimidating tactics are the unsavory reality of a criminal investigation. Com-

Republicans are being 'patient.' • Paula Jones' lawyers are taking a gamble. Page 3.

plaints are rare, they say, when the targets are drug dealers, con artists or mobsters.

But Mr. Starr's use of surreptitious recordings and assertions by the lawyer for Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern, that Mr. Starr was pres-

suring her to lie, have drawn attention to the combative techniques the independent counsel has used in his three-and-a-half-year investigation of the president.

The criticism of Mr. Starr reached a new pitch last week with the most outraged attack yet from Mr. Clinton's lawyer, David Kendall, who said he would move as soon as possible to have Mr. Starr cited for contempt of court for what he said was a campaign of orchestrated and pernicious leaks aimed at damaging the president.

In a letter to Mr. Starr that Mr. Kendall made public Friday, the president's lawyer said that he was making his protest public "because of the calculated tactic

See STARR, Page 8

Election Is Manila's Center Stage

Ex-Actor, Singing Imelda and 'Dirty Harry' Seek Presidency

By Keith B. Richburg Washington Post Service

MANILA — There's a former action-movie star. There's a veteran congressional insider and consummate political deal-maker. There's a tough-talking former cop nicknamed "Dirty Harry." And, yes — inevitably — there's Imelda Marcos, the familiar singing widow.

That unlikely cast can mean only one thing: Presidential campaign season has opened in the Philippines.

But colorful contenders aside, the May 11 election — only the second since a 1986 revolution overthrew a 20-year dictatorship — carries serious implications.

The election will further entrench democracy in the Philippines and place the country firmly at the head of the region's growing democratic camp just as some Asian leaders and academics are questioning whether Western-style democracy is better for the region than an authoritarian system that observes "Asian values." The outcome may also determine whether the Philippines can avoid the worst of Southeast Asia's economic crisis.

President Fidel Ramos is prohibited by the country's constitution from seeking a second six-year term, and the contest to succeed him could decide whether the Philippines continues the Ramos-led economic program that allowed the country to shed its reputation as the "sick man of Asia" and emerge as one of the region's healthiest economies.

Without any large clashes of ideology, the contest is most likely to come down to a question of which candidate voters trust to steer the country through the expected tough times ahead.

That is why the front-runner in all the opinion polls is giving some people here the jitters.

That candidate is the vice president, Joseph (Erap) Estrada, a former movie actor who was mayor of the small municipality of San Juan in metropolitan Manila and who served one term as a senator. The vice president is elected separately from the president, and Mr. Estrada does not have Mr. Ramos's endorsement.

Mr. Estrada is by far the most popular of all the contenders, the only one able to attract mass crowds. But his detractors question whether Mr.

See MANILA, Page 4



Imelda Marcos on her knees at Manila's cathedral Sunday after she filed as a candidate.

Spoiled Hopes Feed a Neo-Nazi Wave

By Alan Cowell New York Times Service

ANGERMUENDE, Germany — The football-sized rocks crashed through the window of Holger Zschoghe's ground-floor apartment on the night of Jan. 30 while he was sleeping.

The next day, the youth club he su-

pervises for teenagers who oppose neo-Nazism was firebombed. A few days earlier, authorities tore down a wooden hut alongside a sports field here because it had been used as a secret meeting place for young rightists, complete with swastikas and banners emblazoned with the runes of Nordic myth.

Not surprisingly, Mr. Zschoghe, a 35-year-old schoolteacher, has come to conclude that rightist extremists from this small, bleak town in Eastern Germany are mobilizing for an onslaught on people like himself who identify with what Germans call the "alternative scene" — a loose and ill-defined coalition of leftists, foreigners and others who view themselves as apart from German norms.

Increasingly, though, Mr. Zschoghe is not alone in his analysis. Across Eastern Germany, sociologists, politicians and local residents say, a neo-Nazi wave is building on the spoiled hopes of Germany's reunification, drawing as much on nostalgia for the clear-cut conformism of Communist dictatorship as on the

equally unambiguous nationalism and racial exclusivism of Nazism.

Styling themselves, moreover, as freedom fighters — paradoxically in the tradition of leftist guerrilla warfare — young neo-Nazis are seeking to establish what they call "national liberated zones," drawing their tactics from a five-page manifesto that circulates on the neo-Nazi Thule Net computer site.

"We must create the space in which we exercise real power, in which we are capable of imposing sanctions — that is, we punish deviants and enemies, we support comrades in the struggle, we help fellow citizens who are oppressed, marginalized and persecuted," the manifesto declares.

Of 6,400 violence-prone neo-Nazis estimated to be in Germany, according to the Interior Ministry statistics, 3,700 — more than half — live in Eastern Germany. In the first six months of 1997, moreover, the police recorded 4,829 crimes committed by neo-Nazis

See GERMANY, Page 8

AGENDA

Aftershocks Still Hitting Afghanistan

Aftershocks continued to jolt northern Afghanistan early Sunday, after an earthquake reportedly killed thousands earlier in the week.

At the town of Rustak and 12 nearby villages, the medical relief group Doctors Without Borders put the death toll at 3,300.

A spokesman for the Red Cross said that a plane carrying relief sup-

plies had landed at Rustak, which is 250 kilometers north of Kabul, the Afghan capital.

Officials with the military alliance that controls the area said the first quake, which hit Wednesday night, had left 15,000 families homeless, as their dwellings collapsed.

One report said that nearly 3,700 bodies had been recovered. Page 4.

President of Cyprus Trails in Election

NICOSIA (Reuters) — George Iakovou, a former foreign minister of Cyprus, held a narrow lead over President Glafcos Clerides in the first round of the presidential election Sunday. With 77.7 percent of the ballots counted, Mr. Iakovou had 41.1 percent of the vote, compared with 39.9 percent for Mr. Clerides, making a runoff election likely next Sunday.

HEALTH/SCIENCE

Depression Linked to Heart Disease

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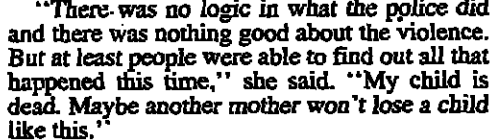
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Kuwait	700 Fils	U.S. Mil. (Eur.)	\$1.20



Crime and Unrest in Post-Communist Society

Newspapers, magazines and radio talk shows have continued a campaign of concern and frustration. Political and religious leaders have demanded "aggression in the streets." To the consternation of many analysts, though, officials have been slow to peel apart the causes of the

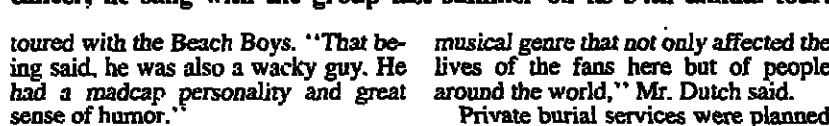


"Poland has become a laboratory for crime patterns," said Tara McKelvey, a Warsaw-based writer working on a book on Eastern Europe's youth. "Because traditional theories about how crime and the economy relate — the idea that, as society modernizes, violent crime decreases and property crime increases — don't hold true."

Przemek Czaja, a thin, spindly legged 13-year-old boy, fell from a blow. Witnesses later said he appeared to have been hit at least one

Mr. Wilson was a stabilizing presence over the years, as the group was torn by family feuds, drug abuse, fame and the death of Dennis Wilson in a swimming accident in 1983.

"He was one of the kindest and nicest people that I'd met that had become a star. He was genuinely a sweet, caring and loving guy," said Mr. Henn, who played with the Sunrays, a group that



toured with the Beach Boys. "That being said, he was also a wacky guy. He had a madcap personality and great sense of humor."

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 1.2 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015. The number of illiterate people in the world is projected to reach 1.7 billion by the year 2015.

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THE AMERICAS

What's the Hush? It's Republicans Biding Their Time

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Turn on the television and you might expect to see members of the opposition party screaming for President Bill Clinton's head. They are not.

Republicans are hardly giving Mr. Clinton the benefit of the doubt over his alleged involvement with Monica Lewinsky. In fact, Republicans in the House, ever so quietly, are examining how they would carry out impeachment proceedings against Mr. Clinton.

Yet, as the White House scandal approaches its third week, most prominent Republicans are abiding a deliberate political calculus: Make sure Mr. Clinton stays put — but keep him wounded.

"We need to be positive, patriotic and patient," Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, declared last week at a closed-door meeting of House Republicans.

This "Be Patient" strategy, Republicans say, has many advantages.

It deprives the White House of portraying the scandal as purely partisan. If Mr. Clinton stays in office but remains beleaguered, he will be

all the more vulnerable a target as Republicans campaign against Democrats in the November midterm elections.

Some Republicans go as far as to admit that they do not want Mr. Clinton forced out of office, because that would give his replacement, Vice President Al Gore, a leg up in the presidential race in 2000.

"From a strictly cynical political standpoint, we don't want this to be too fast," said Rich Galen, a Republican strategist who is close to Mr. Gingrich. "There's no hurry here."

Paraphrasing a line from a former Nixon aide, John Ehrlichman, that is part of Watergate lore, Mr. Galen said, "Let people twist slowly in the wind." He added, mischievously, "And I believe I feel a breeze."

Representative Bob Inglis, Republican of South Carolina, said, "If I were a Democrat, not just the president, I'd be very interested in having this matter cleared very quickly."

But restless Republicans say it is a huge mistake for the party to keep such a low profile — and they point to Mr. Clinton's unshakably high job approval ratings as evidence that the strategy is only helping Democrats.

"I do not believe in death by a thousand cuts," said Representative Bob Barr, Republican of Georgia, the most outspoken advocate of having the House consider impeaching Mr. Clinton. "The presidency in our country is too important for that."

Asked about the go-slow approach of Mr. Gingrich and others in the leadership, Mr. Barr said, "They're putting politics above principle, and I don't choose to do that."

Stuart Stevens, a Republican media consultant in Washington and New York, said: "The danger for the Republican Party is that it is being made irrelevant by its silence. It has been a consistent failure of Republicans to find a way to talk about this very troubling side of Clinton in a way that people find relevant and compelling. The big issue here is integrity."

Day by day, as more and more information leaks out, the obstreperous Republicans will only intensify their pressure on Mr. Gingrich, and on Representative Henry Hyde, Republican of Illinois, the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, to launch an overt attack on Mr. Clinton.

But why all the hurry? After all,

more than 25 months passed from the Watergate burglary in 1972 to President Richard Nixon's resignation in 1974. When the Iran-contra affair broke in 1986, most Democrats decided early on not to press the issue of impeachment against President Ronald Reagan. If for no other reason, they said, he was practically a lame duck anyway.

Part of the problem for Republicans is that the accusations against Mr. Clinton are part of such a fast-moving swirl that even Republicans who squawk about impeachment cannot say for certain just what the president might be impeached for doing.

"The fact is that this scandal, like all scandals, has a dynamic of its own," said Ralph Reed, a Republican strategist, who, despite his former post as executive director of the Christian Coalition, advises going easy on attacking Mr. Clinton for any moral lapses. "If you get spread out across the barbed wire when you're appearing to buy all the allegations initially and it turns out to be not what you said it was, you lose credibility."

One House Republican official said the leadership was determined, at least for now, to resist the cries

from the most outspoken party members to take more aggressive action.

"Why are we being quiet?" said the official, who in keeping with the low-profile House strategy, spoke only on the condition of anonymity. "We are not taking a pass on the character issue. We're remaining silent at this juncture, we're simply saying the facts aren't in yet. When the time comes, the wind will change."

An advantage of the keep-quiet strategy is that it allows Republicans, even ones who have hardly been shy previously about savaging Mr. Clinton, to appear high-minded on a scandal that is hardly that.

Representative Bill McCollum, Republican of Florida, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, brushed off suggestions that Mr. Clinton's predicament has many in the Republican Party celebrating — though in the privacy of their own hideaways in the Capitol.

"I want to be as open-minded as possible," Mr. McCollum said. "It's really not the right time to be speaking out. Everybody should be patient. Republicans and Democrats. The system is designed to be a deliberative process."

POLITICAL NOTES

Clinton's Ratings: Up and Up

WASHINGTON — Despite allegations that he had an affair with a former White House intern, President Bill Clinton's approval rating has soared to 79 percent, according to a poll made public Sunday. His approval rating in a December poll by the same group was 59 percent.

An NBC/Wall Street Journal poll taken Saturday gave Mr. Clinton a 79 percent approval rating for the job he is doing as president. Fifteen percent said they disapproved of his handling of his job and 6 percent were undecided.

Sixty-five percent of the 407 adults questioned in the latest poll by the Hart-Teeter organization said Mr. Clinton should not be impeached and removed from office even if allegations that he lied under oath about an affair with a 21-year-old White House intern were true. But 29 percent said if the allegations were true he should be removed from the White House. (Reuters)

Governor Romer Denies Affair

DENVER — Governor Roy Romer of Colorado has denied that a 16-year "affectionate relationship" with a former aide had any sexual dimension.

"This was not a sexual relationship. It was a very affectionate relationship. That's as straight as I can be," said Mr. Romer, who is also chairman of the Democratic National Committee.

Mr. Romer's news conference came in response to a report on the Internet site of the conservative Insight magazine, owned by The Washington Times, which published allegations of an affair with Betty Jane Thornberry, 51, who left her job in December. (AFP)

Quote/Unquote

Jim Kane, chief pollster with Florida Voter, a non-partisan polling organization, after a group of black political and civic leaders declared "political war" on Democrats over the ouster of Willie Logan as chairman of the Democratic caucus in the Florida House of Representatives: "Quite frankly, Democrats can't succeed at all in this state without black voter support. It's not a help; it's crucial." (NYT)

Away From Politics

• A trove of scientific records from the Naval Research Laboratory has been destroyed because of snarled communications between another federal agency and the laboratory, which calls the loss a calamity. (NYT)

• Six houses slid down soaked hillsides over the weekend as the latest in a series of El Niño-powered storms blew drenching rain through Northern California. (AP)

• The family of a former Virginia Military Institute freshman who was beaten regularly by VMI seniors while enrolled there last fall is demanding that school officials treat the case as a criminal offense. (WP)

• States on average have spent more on each welfare recipient than they did before welfare reform and 22 states have spent more than the 1996 welfare law required, the Department of Health and Human Services reported. "There has been no race to the bottom in state welfare spending," said Donna Shalala, who heads the agency. (WP)



ICY BURDEN — A tree bending under the weight of ice in Nelson County, Virginia. Severe weather recently has forced even ski resorts in the area to close.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Keeping the Home Fires Burning for Decades

An underground coal fire that has smoldered for decades at the edge of Youngstown, Pennsylvania, has Lois Minnick so spooked that she sent a copy of her will to her daughter in Oklahoma.

The fire, fed by a seam of coal hundreds of feet deep, creeps slowly. That provides little relief for Mrs. Minnick, whose property falls between the mine fire and a natural-gas pipeline. The pipeline owners say they are monitoring the fire closely and they see no threat. Still, says Mrs. Minnick, "I'm scared to death."

Such fires are not uncommon in coal-mining country; 45 of them now smolder in Pennsylvania. Stopping them, however, is difficult and expensive.

The federal government has allocated \$2 million to contain the Youngstown fire this year. In 1984, it spent \$2.4 million to dig up seven acres (2.8 hectares) and build a clay fire wall. But heat dried the wall, it cracked, and the fire moved through. Rance Martin, whose house was above the wall, felt heat rising in his toilet bowl and had to move out.

Some people would like the government simply to buy Youngstown and move its inhabitants out. In 1981, the government did that with the Pennsylvania town of Centralia, at a cost of \$42 million.

Short Takes

Massachusetts women who want to exercise without men looking on can now sweat in peace. Backers of a new state law had argued that many women prefer to exercise in private, particularly if they have been physically abused or have had mastectomies. The law, which also permits all-male clubs, was opposed by an unlikely

coalition including the National Organization for Women and men who had been rebuffed by all-women health clubs. NOW opposes all such sex discrimination, even if it favors women.

An entire ghost town, the once-thriving desert mining community of Sasco, Arizona, has been donated to the Salvation Army. The town was founded in 1902 by the Southern Arizona Smelting Co. and grew to a population of 600, but by 1921, it had already been abandoned. The Salvation Army plans to sell the town, possibly for use by tour operators. It stands on 120 acres and is valued at \$1.2 million.

More than a century after the Union general William Tecumseh Sherman had his troops burn every building on Delta Plantation in South Carolina, its new owner, Henry Ingram Jr., has vowed never to let it fall into Yankee hands again. Deed restrictions he has filed at the Jasper County courthouse prohibit the "Yankee race" — anyone born or having lived for at least a year above the Mason-Dixon line, which separated North from South during the Civil War — from owning any part of the 1,688 acres. Anyone named Sherman is banned from the property.

Mr. Ingram, who bought Delta Plantation last month for \$1.2 million, accused Northerners of "infiltrating Jasper County," telling a Georgia newspaper, "They're worse than fire ants." Federal law prevents discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, handicap, marital status or national origin, but says nothing about geographical origin within the United States, or about surnames. To challenge the Ingram deed restrictions, said one lawyer, a plaintiff would have to show that Yankees are "a class of people entitled to some type of protection under discrimination laws."

Mr. Ingram made a point of saying his restrictions were not aimed at "Southern persons of African descent"; in fact, any Southern black can buy the property at a 10 percent discount.

Brian Knowlton

Jones Lawyers Take a Gamble

Expanded Case Promises to Involve Many Women

By Lorraine Adams
Washington Post Service

DALLAS — One day last September, Donovan Campbell, a lean, intense lawyer with an arrow-like bearing, received a call from an old friend in Virginia asking for help. Mr. Campbell soon gathered the five other attorneys in his firm to relay his friend's pitch: Would they consider representing Paula Corbin Jones in suing the president of the United States for sexual harassment?

"We all laughed," said David Pyke, a partner. "We thought it was a joke."

Four months later, the "joke" has become an all-consuming enterprise for the Rader, Campbell, Fisher & Pyke law firm, which occupies an office suite in a taupe-colored glass Dallas high-rise.

The Jones case, now scheduled for trial in late May, began as a messy lawsuit about Governor Bill Clinton's behavior while chief executive of a small Southern state but has led to a grave presidential crisis, largely because of Mrs. Jones's new attorneys and the private investigators they hired.

It was the Jones team that located Monica Lewinsky, the former White House intern whose assertions of a sexual affair with President Clinton and his alleged efforts to conceal the liaison, secretly recorded by a confidant, are at the core of the separate investigation by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr.

Although the Dallas attorneys will not reveal how they zeroed in on Ms. Lewinsky — "that's the \$60 million question," Mr. Campbell said in an interview last week, "we'll never say how" — her emergence in the Starr probe underscored how intertwined the civil and criminal cases have become. That was made clear again Thursday when Mr. Starr subpoenaed the Jones lawyers' records on any other women sexually linked to Mr. Clinton.

Several hours of interviews with Mrs. Jones's legal team and documents filed in the case reveal a legal strategy that has changed radically since September. What had been a straightforward sexual harassment suit, based on

Mrs. Jones's assertion that Mr. Clinton exposed himself and propositioned her in a Little Rock hotel suite in 1991, has become a complex sequence of allegations that will try to portray Mr. Clinton before a jury as a chronic sexual predator who uses his official powers "under color of law" to coerce women.

If Mrs. Jones's lawyers present the case they contend they have assembled, the trial could afford an embarrassing procession of women, either badly treated or handsomely helped by Mr. Clinton, depending on their willingness to cavort sexually with him.

On the other hand, if the Jones depiction of the president's conduct is less than promised, the trial could turn into a pageant of exculpation for a popular and, some feel, unfairly accused president.

Unlike Mrs. Jones's previous attorneys, who withdrew last summer, the new Jones team has extensive experience in federal discrimination cases.

And unlike most such cases, which are filed under a federal sexual harassment statute, Mrs. Jones has sued Mr. Clinton under a civil rights statute alleging that he used his elected office to deprive her of her constitutional rights in the same way someone who is wrongfully arrested and beaten is deprived of the right to due process.

Experts on sexual harassment law say Mrs. Jones's new legal team has taken a bolder but also riskier approach because many judges have ruled that evidence about rewarding other women for consensual sex is not admissible.

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Fund-Raiser Draft Is Mute on China

By Jill Abramson
and Don Van Natta Jr.
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A Republican draft report on campaign financing details widespread improper Democratic fund-raising in 1996 but has yet to substantiate the explosive accusation that China had a plan to meddle in that year's elections.

The 1,500-page draft, prepared by the Republican staff of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee headed by Senator Fred Thompson of Tennessee, vividly describes a bottomless thirst for campaign contributions. It also tells of a lack of proper vetting that led the Democratic National Committee to accept illegal foreign donations and to offer donors with questionable backgrounds access to President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore.

A copy of the draft report, which is circulating among the Republican members of the committee, was obtained by The New York Times.

The draft exhaustively details the roles of top Democratic fund-raisers and connects some of them to Chinese in-

terests. But the draft has neither an executive summary nor a separate chapter on a reputed plan by the Chinese government to influence American elections because that section includes classified material. The FBI and the CIA have expressed concern about sensitive information in that chapter.

The China chapter is expected to significantly clarify the ties between China and some of the figures at the center of the campaign finance imbroglio. That material will be included when the report is released in the coming days.

The draft is also missing chapters on accusations of improper fund-raising by a Republican policy group and nonprofit organizations that helped Republican and Democratic candidates.

The report is presented as a chronicle of frenzied fund-raising by the Democratic Party to re-elect Mr. Clinton, and is a highly partisan document. It includes sharp criticisms of the president's fund-raising activities and what is described as the White House's lack of cooperation with Senate investigators, which the Republicans termed Nixonian. But it is Mr. Gore who drew some of the most scathing attacks, including an assertion that

he has demonstrated a "lack of candor" about his appearance at a fund-raiser at a Buddhist temple.

Jim Kennedy, a spokesman for the White House counsel's office, described the report as "the Republican Party's first press release of the 1998 campaign" and denied the assertion that the White House tried to thwart the investigation through obfuscation and delay.

Christopher Lehane, a spokesman for Mr. Gore, said, "If this is the report the Republicans are coming out with, it is obvious that Senator Thompson and his fellow Republicans fell well short of the fair bipartisan committee hearings they promised America."

Much of the material in the draft report, written after a \$3.5 million investigation, was made public at hearings from July to October. But the draft includes more detailed narratives, containing some new information, on the activities of Democratic fund-raisers, including John Huang, Maria Hsia, Johnny Chung, Ted Siocang and Yuh Lin Tlie.

It is the ties between these fund-raisers and China, the Democratic Party and the White House that are the focus of much of the report.

ASIA/PACIFIC

Aftershocks Still Jolting Afghan Hinterlands

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KABUL — Aftershocks jolted remote northeast Afghanistan before dawn Sunday, crumbling more villages in an area where thousands reportedly died in an earthquake last week.

A spokesman for the International Committee of the Red Cross, which is coordinating relief efforts, said a foreign medical team had reached the epicenter of the quake in the remote Rustak district and had gathered reports from surrounding villages.

The Red Cross spokesman said that a team from Doctors Without Borders had received reports from local officials giving a death toll of nearly 3,300 in Rustak and 12 nearby villages.

Aid workers could not confirm the varying estimates ranging from 2,000 to 4,500 dead, he said, but the low numbers of injured admitted to a clinic in Rustak raised hopes the loss of life may be lower than first thought.

He said a Red Cross plane packed with emergency medical and water sanitation supplies managed to land Sunday near Rustak, 250 kilometers (150 miles) north of the Afghan capital.

"If there are over 3,000 killed we would expect thousands of injured, but so far there are reports of only 80 serious cases," the spokesman said. "But we have to assess the situation and confirm the toll."

However, the Afghan Embassy in

Dushanbe, Tajikistan, said that two major aftershocks had claimed more victims. A spokesman said aftershocks late Saturday and early Sunday killed 250 more people and injured 50.

Red Cross officials in Pakistan said a four-member delegation would survey conditions in the devastated area and report back on relief needs Monday.

The first quake hit Wednesday night with a magnitude of 6.1 in the Rustak district, which lies at the junction of the Hindu Kush and Pamir mountain ranges.

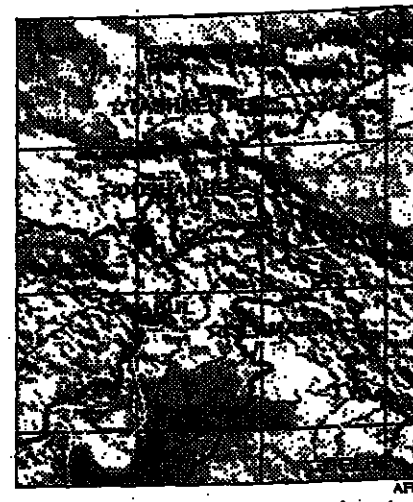
First reports of the quake reached Kabul two days later, and details were still emerging Sunday. The tremor that rocked the area Saturday night and again

at 4 A.M. Sunday added four more villages to the dozen or so destroyed or damaged earlier.

Officials with the military alliance that controls the area said the first quake left as many as 15,000 families homeless when hillsides collapsed onto each other, crushing the mud and brick homes perched on the slopes.

Masood Khalili, the Afghan ambassador to India, said soldiers had dug out a total of 3,681 bodies by late Saturday. Other Afghan officials have put the death toll as high as 4,450, while the Red Cross put the preliminary death toll at 2,150.

One village, Ghunji, had 600 homes destroyed, Mr. Khalili said, and 1,600 people were killed. (AP, Reuters, AFP)



The black dot marks the epicenter of the quake in north Afghanistan.

Okinawa Vote Goes to Backer Of Heliport, a Boon to Tokyo

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

TOKYO — In a boost to supporters of U.S. military bases on Okinawa, a candidate who backs plans to build a floating American heliport off the coast of the southern island narrowly won a mayoral election Sunday in the city of Nago.

Takeo Kishimoto, 54, a former deputy mayor supported by Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, won by a slim margin after emphasizing that building the heliport, at a cost of \$1 billion to \$2 billion, would invigorate the depressed local economy.

Mr. Kishimoto received 16,253 votes to 15,103 votes for Yoshiyuki Tanaka, 49, a former Okinawa prefectural assemblyman who opposes the heliport because of the noise it would bring and the danger Okinawans associate with the U.S. military.

The election took place two days after the governor of Okinawa, Masahide Ota, announced that he would not support government efforts to build the floating platform off Nago. Mr. Ota noted that in a nonbinding referendum in December, 54 percent of Nago voters rejected the plan.

Despite Mr. Ota's opposition, Mr. Kishimoto's victory is expected to provide a boost to the central government's attempts to persuade the governor to go along with the heliport. Mr. Ota's approval is required to build the facility.

Two-thirds of the 47,000 U.S. troops stationed in Japan are on Okinawa, about 1,600 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. Long-standing opposition to the military presence exploded in 1995 after the rape of a 12-year-old girl there and the conviction of three U.S. servicemen in the crime.

Appealing to Okinawans uneasy about the heliport, Mr. Kishimoto said in his victory speech that the installation would come in exchange for the return of land occupied by a U.S. military air base in the town of Futatabi.

The heliport project resulted from a 1996 U.S.-Japan agreement in which Washington agreed to close the Futenma Air Station in five to seven years on the condition that an alternative heliport be built somewhere in the prefecture.

"We should go back to the origin of the issue — which is the return of Futatabi — once more, and look at it afresh," Mr. Kishimoto said.

The Tokyo government was so eager to push the project, through that it threatened to withhold \$150 million in economic assistance for Okinawa, the poorest of Japan's 32 prefectures.

Mr. Hashimoto and the Liberal Democratic Party had pushed for the heliport.

"The LDP played hard ball; they said no heliport, no money," said a political analyst, John Neuffer.

With the economy in tatters, the heliport was looked at as a gold mine by the Tokyo authorities and by the big construction companies. (AP, Reuters)

'If Prices Keep Going Up, We'll Protest in the Streets'

Indonesians Rioting Over Fallout of Asian Crisis

By Seth Mydans
New York Times Service

SEMARI, Indonesia — When hundreds of rough-looking men burst through the alleyways of the nearby town of Kraton last week, throwing stones and waving sharpened sickles, most of them came from here in Semari, a placid village of farmers and fishermen.

"Rising prices! Rising prices!" they shouted as they smashed a couple of windows and tried unsuccessfully to set a barrel of kerosene on fire, angered by reports that a Kraton merchant had raised prices.

The police quickly choked off the riot, though shopkeepers had pulled down their metal shutters and retreated into back rooms. The green and blue shutters of most shops remained closed, and the town was still tense.

A kilometer away, Semari seemed as calm as ever. White cows grazed in its bright green pasture, and sunshine sparkled from its flooded rice fields. Men smoked quietly on cool porches.

Here on the far eastern tip of Indonesia's main island of Java, the political debate of the capital city of Jakarta seems worlds away. Currency devaluations, collapsing banks and frightened stock markets are unknown concepts in Semari. No one here has heard of the International Monetary Fund, which has imposed an economic austerity program as part of a \$40 billion rescue package.

But Semari and villages like it around this vast nation of 200 million are at the heart of the crisis that threatens Indonesia's stability. And the people here know exactly why that is.

"Let me tell you something," said Mohammed Jamil, a 37-year-old farmer. "The problem is the price increases. Our income stays the same, but prices keep going up. If the prices come down, the problems will be solved."

On the other hand, he said, "If the prices keep going up, we'll protest in the streets."

It is already happening up and down the coast of eastern Java, as well as in several other places. In a dozen towns over the last two weeks, small riots have broken out as the prices of rice, cooking oil, kerosene and other staples have begun to rise.

Most analysts say this is just the beginning. Government price supports are only starting to be removed from staples as part of the IMF plan. Gasoline prices are scheduled to rise in two months.

Bigger, broader and more damaging riots are feared as inflation intensifies and prices rise further.

Indonesia is already a restive nation, held together by force for the last 32 years under President Suharto. A pervasive government apparatus offers little outlet for grievances over corruption, abusive officials, unresponsive courts, disparities in wealth and wrenching cultural changes as cities grow and new factory towns devour fertile farmland.

"There is no rule of law," said Saikat Mifta, a 48-year-old businessman who lives in Kraton. "There is no way for people to channel their frustrations. The common people feel they are ignored by the law. The government does not respond to their complaints. So if there's a problem, they quickly become angry and

they turn to violence. They don't try to understand. They just react."

As life becomes harsher for the farmers and fishermen here, even unfounded rumors of price rises have been enough to spark riots.

Gathered around a visitor to shoot their complaints, the villagers of Semari were a fount of exaggerated reports of rising prices. "Kerosene is 1,000 rupiah a liter, can you believe it?" they said. "Rice is up to 2,000. Cooking oil is 6,000. Everything is up! Some say sugar is 6,000 a kilo."

These are impossible prices, said Abdul Mukti, a farmer. "Can you imagine, just 2,000 rupiah for working all day in the fields, and then prices like that? What if you have three kids to feed?"

Before the rupiah began its steep fall last summer, 2,000 rupiah was worth about 80 cents. Today its value is closer to 20 cents.

So last week, when word spread that a prominent Kraton trader named Nuning had raised the price of a liter of kerosene to 1,000 rupiah from 350, the people of Semari were already seething. Kerosene is a key commodity, used by many Indonesians to fuel kitchen stoves.

"We headed into town," said Mr. Jamil, the farmer.

"Raising our knives!" shouted a young man.

"No, no, no," the older men hushed him, glancing at their visitor. "No knives. No knives."

Men from another village brought two small potash bombs, which fishermen use to stun fish illegally. One was a dud, the villagers said, but the other exploded in front of the iron shutters of Mrs. Nuning's shop. (Like many Indonesians, she uses only one name.)

"The interesting thing is that Nuning hadn't raised her prices," said Mr. Saikat, whose mother-in-law owns a restaurant across the street from Mrs. Nuning's shop. "She wasn't even open that day. She hadn't been open for five days."

But like so many of the conflicts that have produced Indonesia's crisis — from smalltown riots to questions of governmental mismanagement — events here were driven as much by personal frictions and rivalries as by deep-rooted issues. One local version of the Kraton riot is that a rival kerosene merchant had spread the rumor that Mrs. Nuning had raised her prices.

Along with deepening poverty and spreading unemployment, the economic crisis has heightened frictions between political and economic rivals, between employers and their workers, between shopkeepers and their customers and between ethnic and religious groups.

However the crisis plays out, everyone here seems to agree, Indonesia has become a more dangerous place.

Security Tight in Eastern City

Tight security was in place Sunday in the eastern Indonesian city of Bima after hundreds of people attacked and set fire to shops over higher prices, Agence France Presse reported, quoting the police.

"The situation is calm," Nasir, a civilian police official, said, adding, "But shop owners probably still don't dare to stay open today."



A worker at a wholesale poultry market in Hong Kong on Sunday with chickens just arrived from China.

Chicken's Back on Menu in Hong Kong

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

HONG KONG — The sale of chickens resumed Sunday in Hong Kong for the first time in six weeks, and the demand was so great that they were snapped up at exorbitant prices despite lingering fears about a bird flu that has killed six people.

Customers bought chickens despite price increases of up to 30 percent and warnings from medical experts that more cases of type-A H5N1 virus could not be ruled out. The virus has infected 18 people here, including the six who died.

One poultry shop in the Wanchai tourist area sold out of chickens within three hours of opening Sunday.

The birds were fetching prices up to 90 Hong Kong dollars (\$11.50) each,

about 10 dollars more than before the ban. Retailers said wholesalers were charging them about 30 percent more because of the scarce supply.

Wong Woon-nam, 90, said he was not worried about the high prices.

"I have been sick for the last month," he said, "and my doctor told me to have chicken soup, and I will pay more to get it."

Hong Kong people prefer freshly killed chickens over frozen imports because of their freshness and better taste.

Vendors complained that only 35,000 birds were imported into Hong Kong on Saturday, when the government lifted the ban on live chickens from China.

Before the ban was imposed on Dec. 24, Hong Kong imported from China

80,000 birds daily, or 75 percent of the territory's daily consumption.

No new flu cases have been reported in Hong Kong since the government slaughtered all the territory's 1.4 million chickens in late December.

The fowl are now quarantined for five days on the mainland before being shipped, and some birds from each shipment are blood-tested by a Hong Kong government laboratory on the border.

Plastic and metal cages have replaced wooden ones, and tough new rules on hygiene at markets are in force.

A global effort is under way to understand the virus. The World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta will release their findings this month.

(AFP, AP, Reuters)

Religious Leaders Begin China Mission

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

BEIJING — A high-profile delegation of American religious leaders began arriving Sunday in Beijing for the start of a three-week tour of China to examine the state of religious freedom here, one of the most volatile human-rights issues in American diplomacy.

While it is being described as private, the mission was agreed to by President Jiang Zemin of China and President Bill Clinton during their meeting last October, and the White House picked the three-man delegation: a Jewish leader, an evangelical Christian leader and a Roman Catholic archbishop.

From Tuesday to Mar. 1, the group will meet with officials and religious leaders in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Chengdu, Lhasa in Tibet and Hong Kong. They have been granted rare approval for the

visit to Tibet, the mountain region where the Chinese are accused of repressing Buddhist religion and culture.

Both the Chinese and the American governments hope that the unusual dialogue will help defuse what has rapidly emerged as a popular human-rights crusade, threatening their efforts to build friendlier political and economic ties.

In the United States, a coalition of evangelical Christians and other religious groups, human-rights advocates and supporters of the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader, wants stronger measures to fight what it describes as widespread persecution of Christians and Tibetan Buddhists in China.

It says that China is engaged in a campaign of arrests and harassment designed to stamp out unapproved religious activity by millions of people including Catholics who give allegiance to

the Vatican, Protestant groups that meet in private homes and Buddhists who follow the Dalai Lama.

The Chinese government angrily rejects the charges of persecution. It says that 14 million Protestants and Catholics worship in the state-approved churches, their numbers growing, and describes leaders of the so-called underground churches as criminal elements.

The first American delegation member to arrive in Beijing on Sunday sought to hold down expectations.

"This will be a very modest step, but it's a beginning," said Rabbi Arthur Schneier, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, a group that promotes religious tolerance around the world. The other two members are Archbishop Theodore McCarrick of the Roman Catholic diocese of Newark and the Reverend Don Argue, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

CHINA: Dissident Is Arrested

Continued from Page 1

planned for about a year, according to Fu Shenqi, a veteran democracy activist now living in New York who said he had helped the dissident set up his trip.

Mr. Fu told The Associated Press that the Justice Party meeting was to be held in northern China later this month.

Mr. Wang sneaked into China from Portuguese-run Macao under a false name, according to Frank Lu Siquing, head of the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Separately, China released a jailed Christian activist on the eve of a fact-finding mission by three U.S. clerics, the information center said. Gao Feng, sentenced to two and a half years in a labor camp in 1995, was released Sunday, it said, after completing his term.

MANILA: Entertaining Choices in Philippines' Presidential Race

Continued from Page 1

Estrada, who dropped out of college to become an actor and is known as a populist, has a sufficient background in economics to manage the country.

"The guy is underrated," said Senator Edgardo Angara, a former president of the University of the Philippines who dropped his own presidential bid to become Mr. Estrada's running mate. "His popularity is an indispensable quality, for the next president will have to inaugurate an austerity program for the country."

Mr. Estrada said he was used to being belittled by his detractors, whom he calls "those intellectual snobs."

To those who say an actor cannot be president, Mr. Estrada evokes the name of the politician he calls "my idol," Ronald Reagan. "The most powerful nation in the world can elect a movie actor," he said. "I don't see why the Philippines can't."

As for his checkered romantic life — Mr. Estrada acknowledges having a longtime mistress and four children born out of wedlock to different women — he says, "As far as I am concerned, this is my private life."

The best-known candidate in the race probably is Imelda Marcos, 68, the widow of Ferdinand Marcos, the deposed former dictator.

Mrs. Marcos, now a congresswoman,

is battling court cases stemming from the couple's 20-year rule and allegations that the Marcoses looted billions of dollars from the country's coffers. She is now appealing a Supreme Court ruling last month upholding her 1993 conviction on corruption charges and a 12-year prison sentence.

Despite a hard core of loyalists, Mrs. Marcos is widely unpopular in most of the country — particularly with those who suffered under her husband's dictatorship and who remember the shoe collection she amassed as first lady. She made a poor showing six years ago in a crowded field and will probably fare even worse this time.

She is, however, expected to add to the entertainment value of the campaign: She punctuates her rallies with songs and invariably draws most of the attention of the foreign press.

Mr. Ramos's preference as his successor, the one he deemed most able to block Mr. Estrada's rise, is the speaker of the House, Jose de Venecia. Mr. Ramos's endorsement of him was a surprise, as the speaker rarely scored above the single-digit range in opinion polls and has a reputation as a wheeler-dealer.

But Mr. de Venecia controls the country's most formidable political machine, the governing Lakas-NUCD party, which reaches into every provincial town and village. An uninspiring speaker, he at times seems like a candidate

running primarily on his endorsements.

Mr. de Venecia claims credit for steering Mr. Ramos's economic reform package through a contentious House. "All the economic and social reform legislation was initiated by me, or by President Ramos, or jointly," he boasted.

Mostly, Mr. de Venecia is not Mr. Estrada. An Estrada presidency makes people "nervous, very nervous," Mr. de Venecia said.

The unknown factor, however, is "Dirty Harry" — Manila's mayor and former police chief, Alfredo Lim.

Mr. Lim earned the "Dirty Harry" nickname in recognition of some questionable police methods. When he declared war on drug dealers a few years ago, the mutilated bodies of suspected pushers were found with signs around their necks reading, "Don't Follow Me — I'm a Drug Dealer."

Mr. Lim is little known outside Manila. But, surprisingly, he recently received one of the country's most coveted endorsements — from former President Corason Aquino, who led the 1986 "people power" revolt that overthrew the Marcoses.

When Mrs. Aquino was under attack from coup plotters in 1987, Mr. Lim's policemen retook a key government television station, earning him Mrs. Aquino's gratitude. Now, some of Mrs. Aquino's former aides are working closely with Mr. Lim's long-shot campaign.

A Call to Arms in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO — President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga appealed Sunday to army and police deserters to return and take up arms against Tamil Tiger rebels, as heavy fighting was reported in Sri Lanka's northern battlegrounds.

Mrs. Kumaratunga asked soldiers and policemen to report back to duty this year, the country's 50th year of independence, saying it would be an ideal time for them to serve the nation. She said she had asked military authorities not to court-martial the deserters if they returned.

The Sri Lankan military, battling the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, is plagued by desertions as soldiers on leave fail to report back for duty. Last year, the army was forced to extend an amnesty for deserters after many failed to meet a deadline to return to barracks. Military officials say that more than 10,000 soldiers are listed as deserters. (Reuters)

Balloons Land in Burma

BANGKOK — The Burmese military junta scored a rare public-relations victory by allowing a European balloon to land after its bid to orbit the globe was thwarted by China's delay in granting it permission to fly through its airspace.

The Breitling Orbiter 2 landed north of Rangoon on Saturday after generals gave an unusual green light for it to enter the country, which has been isolated by the West over criticisms of its human rights record. (AFP)

Khmer Rouge Criticizes Hun Sen

PHNOM PENH — The Khmer Rouge guerrilla group

Australia Constitutional Debate

CANBERRA — Prime Minister John Howard of Australia said Sunday that there was nothing sinister in his push to settle on a model for a republic to be voted on in a referendum.

Mr. Howard has said that a convention debating the issue needed to produce one model to put against the current constitutional monarchy, which has the British monarch as Australia's head of state, at a referendum in 1999.

The convention, attended by 152 delegates, half elected, half appointed, resumes Monday for its second and final week. Mr. Howard's stance has been criticized by some republicans, who say that monarchists at the convention could vote for the republican model most likely to be defeated at a referendum.

"I'm not trying to be clever or Machiavellian," Mr. Howard said in a television interview. "I just want an outcome." Although the majority of the convention's delegates are considered republicans, they have not yet reached agreement on whether the head of state should be popularly elected or appointed.

(Reuters)

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EUROPE

Corsicans Urged to Protest Killing of Top State Official

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AJACCIO, Corsica — Politicians and churchmen on Sunday urged Corsicans to take to the streets to protest the murder of the French state's senior representative on the troubled island.

The prefect of Corsica, Claude Erignac, 60, was gunned down in the center of the capital, Ajaccio, on Friday evening as he was heading to a concert at a theater.

The assassination shocked the rest of France and touched a raw nerve in Corsica itself, which has witnessed thousands of bombings over more than 20 years by nationalist militants, but relatively few murders.

"The people who live here should gather together and demonstrate their revulsion over this," said Victoria Canale, spokeswoman for the Corsican movement Protest for Life.

"Corsica and Corsicans have had enough," she added.

Two men were arrested shortly after the murder, but initial forensic tests failed to

find evidence that they were involved. The suspects, who are of North African origin, denied responsibility.

Commentators said they suspected that separatist guerrillas were behind the attack, but some politicians said the killers were gangsters who had lost sight of nationalist ideals.

"We should have the courage to say that Corsica is now in the hands of the Mafia, who kill, kidnap and assassinate not for great causes, not for autonomy, but for money," said Nicolas Sarkozy, general secretary of the Rally for the Republic party.

The body of Mr. Erignac was flown to mainland France on Sunday with full state honors, his coffin draped in the French flag.

Mr. Erignac had just parked his car and was walking on a crowded street to Le Kalliste theater when he was shot in the head four times, the police said. A 9mm pistol was found at the scene.

No one claimed responsibility. The Corsican National Liberation Front-Historic

Wing, the most radical separatist faction, announced an end to a seven-month-old truce on Jan. 26. It said France's Socialist-led government, which took power in June, had failed to meet its demands.

Commentators said the killing could mark the start of a surge of violence by fragmented nationalist guerrilla groups, whose popularity has sunk in recent years.

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin traveled to Corsica on Saturday. He and President Jacques Chirac will lead a special state service in honor of Mr. Erignac in Ajaccio on Monday afternoon.

Mr. Chirac vowed that the authority of the government in the area would not be jeopardized. (Reuters, AP)



CLOSER LOOK — A boy approaching Pope John Paul II during services at the Vatican on Sunday, celebrating Family Day organized by the Rome diocese.

A Swiss List Puts Algerians at Risk

By Elizabeth Olson
New York Times Service

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — While Leon Jobe, a Swiss police officer, was investigating suspected arms smuggling by Islamic militants to Algeria in 1994, he put together lists of suspects and turned over hundreds of names to Algerian officials.

The Algerian government arrested, jailed and tortured at least four people on the list when they returned to Algeria, said a lawyer for 14 Algerians who sued Mr. Jobe. The list has also been linked to the death of an Algerian university professor.

For his actions, Mr. Jobe was convicted in a rare Swiss espionage case and given an 18-month suspended sentence. He is back on the Geneva police force.

With newspapers carrying daily reports of horrific killings in the Algerian government's battle with Islamic militants, the lists' disclosure has left many Algerians here living in fear. One young Algerian, who was arrested back home, pleaded in an interview here: "Please only call me Mr. X. There are others at home who would suffer."

A five-judge court in Lausanne found that the man's arrest, jailing and harsh treatment in Algeria resulted from his appearing on Mr. Jobe's secret list.

Mr. Jobe "told me as he was putting me on the plane, 'I'm sending you back so the authorities will cut your throat,'" the man asserted. He was arrested when he arrived in Algeria, imprisoned and tortured for five days, he said.

He was released from jail by a sympathetic police officer, he said, and spent more than a year sleeping every two or three nights in a different place. He kept away from his family so he would not endanger them. He eventually managed to get to Italy, then returned to Switzerland, where he has received political asylum.

Insisting on meeting in a public place, he shyly offered a note from his psychiatrist barring discussion of specifics of his torture. He is trying to rebuild his life, working as a chocolate maker. But he acknowledged, "I'm afraid when I get up to go to work in the morning."

During the inquiry into possible weapons smuggling from the Czech Republic through Switzerland to Islamic militants in Algeria, Mr. Jobe linked up with Abdelkader Hebri, named in the lawsuit as an informant.

They began collecting the names of people, many of whom were men who worshipped at Geneva's mosque. Between 300 and 400 names were listed, including those of people who say they are apolitical and have never sym-

pathized with Islamic militants.

Among them is a 39-year-old Algerian, who also spoke on condition of anonymity. This man also believes his family, including parents in an Algerian suburb, will become a target of the Algerian government if his name is mentioned publicly. One of his brothers disappeared in 1994, he said, and the other was beaten by the police last year.

A resident of Switzerland for 11 years, this man accidentally found out his name was on one of Mr. Jobe's lists. "Luckily for me," he said, "I was studying for my exam, and I had no money to go back to Algeria in 1994, or I would be like the others."

Mr. Jobe's lawyer, Bernard Ziegler, described his client as an "idealist" who wanted to "fight against terrorism."

He said Mr. Jobe could lose his current police job attending to foreign dignitaries, and had been ordered to pay more than \$125,000 in damages and court costs to six of the people who sued him.

In her court arguments, the chief federal prosecutor, Carla Del Ponte, labeled Mr. Jobe a spy and accused him of damaging the state's inquiry into activities in Switzerland by Islamic militants.

She recommended the 18-month suspended sentence adopted by the court. Mr. Hebri received 15 months, and his sentence was not suspended.

Crew That Killed Skiers in Italy Offers Sympathy

By John Tagliabue
New York Times Service

ROME — The crew of the American jet that sheared ski lift cables in northern Italy last week issued a message of sympathy to the families of the victims Sunday, and U.S. Air Force officials denied Italian charges that a delay in handing over the jet's mission recorder was part of an effort to cover up the reasons for the tragedy.

The accident last Tuesday sent a cable car hurtling to the ground, killing all 20 passengers, and questions about the whereabouts of the plane's mission recorder led to accusations by Italian law enforcement officials of possible tampering with crucial evidence.

Until Sunday, the four-member crew of the EA-6B Prowler, a Marine Corps electronic surveillance jet, had issued no public statements. They met with Italian law enforcement officials last week at Aviano Air Base in northern Italy, where the plane is stationed, but answered no questions.

In their message, the plane's pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, and the three crew members said the accident in the northern Italian ski resort of Cavalese was "a tragedy," but asserted that they would "never do anything to purposely endanger the lives of others."

"We cherish life and take our jobs very seriously," the officers said in the statement, released by their Italian lawyer. "We all share in your tremendous loss."

The statement, signed by all four crew members, contained no apology, but concluded: "Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of you."

President Bill Clinton and senior members of his administration have sought to contain the political uproar in Italy over the deaths by pledging a full investigation. The investigation is in the hands of an American-led

team that includes the Italian commander of the Aviano base, which is under joint Italian and U.S. command.

Italian law enforcement officials are conducting a parallel investigation on the outside chance that the United States would relinquish jurisdiction if the investigation concluded that the pilot or crew were criminally liable.

The victims included a 13-year-old Polish boy and his mother, and vacationers from Italy, Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and Austria.

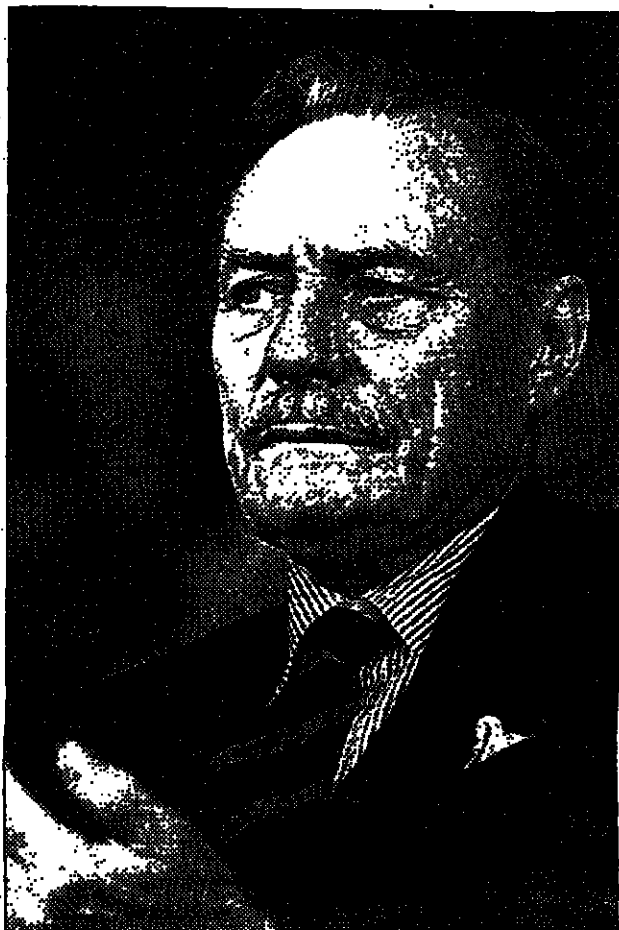
U.S. Air Force officials said members of the investigating team tried unsuccessfully Saturday to retrieve data from the plane's mission recorder. The air force said the recorder was removed from the cockpit Tuesday by a member of a

maintenance crew after the pilot and his crew left the plane quickly upon landing when fuel was seen to be leaking from the damaged jet. But it said a record was kept of the mission recorder's whereabouts until it was given to the investigating commission on Thursday.

The loss of data and the delay in handing over the recorder had prompted charges among Italian law enforcement officials of a cover-up.

Marine aviators familiar with the jet said that portions of the coded data can be lost if the recorder is removed from the cockpit hurriedly without following a precise shutdown sequence of the plane's power circuits, a measure intended to prevent the contents of the recorder falling into enemy hands in wartime.

Even if the device been removed properly, it is doubtful that its contents could provide much help in the investigation. The device records altitude above sea level, but officials said its accuracy was not sufficient to be of much use in determining whether the plane was flying below minimum approved levels, as U.S. and Italian officials have claimed.



Enoch Powell, whose 1968 speech caused an uproar.

Enoch Powell Dies, British Politician

The Associated Press

LONDON — Enoch Powell, 85, a former government minister whose famous "Rivers of Blood" speech warned against large-scale immigration to Britain, died Sunday after suffering from Parkinson's disease.

Although Mr. Powell provoked an outcry with his 1968 speech, predicting "rivers of blood" in Britain if nonwhite immigrants were not repatriated, he continued battling against immigration and remained a controversial figure for the rest of his life. In many political quarters he was revered for his views, but others admired him as one of the few prominent public men who dared to express the feelings of many British people.

Mr. Powell was born in Birmingham and was educated at private school and at Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was an honored scholar and became a fellow of the college. At age 26 he was professor of Greek at the University of Sydney before returning to Britain at the outbreak of the World War II.

Joining the army as a private, he rose to become a brigadier on the general staff by 1944. During this time he wrote books on Greek heroes, and he continued to write on a variety of topics throughout his life.

He was elected in 1950 as a Conservative member of Parliament. He became financial secretary to the Treasury, but along with other key Treasury ministers, he dramatically resigned in 1958 because the cabinet refused to reduce public spending.

He was back two years later as minister of health, but was again out in 1963 when he refused to serve in Alec Douglas-Home's government. After the Conservatives' 1964 election defeat, he lost to Edward Heath in a battle for the party leadership. Mr. Heath made him party defense spokesman, but his

views on immigration caused increasing conflict with the party leadership. Finally his Birmingham speech in 1968 led Mr. Heath to remove him as defense spokesman.

Cardinal Pironio, 77, Argentine Prelate

ROME (NYT) — Cardinal Eduardo Francisco Pironio, 77, one of Latin America's highest ranking churchmen, who was twice considered to be a candidate for the papacy, died Thursday at the Vatican. He had been suffering from bone cancer.

Cardinal Pironio, born in Argentina, into a family of Italian immigrants, was made a bishop at 44, and served first as secretary and then, in 1972, as president of the Latin American Bishops Conference, where he was noted for his defense of human rights.

He was later called to Rome by Pope Paul VI to become head of the Congregation of Religious Orders and of Secular Institutions. He was made a cardinal in 1976.

Nazim Kudsi, 91, an Arab nationalist who was president of Syria from 1961 to 1963, has died and was buried Saturday in Jordan, newspapers in Amman said Sunday. He became president after the dissolution of the short-lived United Arab Republic and was ousted by a bloodless army coup. Earlier he had been prime minister, foreign minister and ambassador to Washington.

Rear Admiral William Matthew Lukash, 66, a navalist and doctor to four sitting presidents, from Lyndon Johnson to Jimmy Carter, died Tuesday in Del Mar, California. He had suffered from Alzheimer's disease. After his White House years, he organized and was director of a preventive medicine department at the Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation in San Diego.

BRIEFLY

Yeltsin Warns Over U.S. Power

ROME — President Boris Yeltsin of Russia has warned against allowing the United States to hold a monopoly on world power.

In an interview published Sunday in the *Corriere della Sera*, he said, "History shows that attempts to establish world hegemony are always short-lived." His reply was to a question about the influence of U.S. foreign policy. He advocated what he called "a multipolar world," free of overbearing superpowers. (Reuters)

2d Case of 'Mad Cow' in France

PARIS — The French authorities announced Sunday a new case of "mad cow" disease, the first in the Haute Savoie region. This latest case is the second reported this year in France and brings to 33 the number of cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy recorded in the country since 1990, the Agriculture Ministry said. (AFP)

Yugoslavia Assails Germany

BELGRADE — The Yugoslav state news agency Tanjug accused Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel of Germany on Sunday of fueling tensions that could lead to war in Serbia's restive southern province of Kosovo.

Mr. Kinkel said Friday he supported an "extended autonomy" for Kosovo, where ethnic Albanians form a 90 percent majority. Tanjug said, "Official German policy, if it is to be judged by Kinkel's statements, rudely interferes into internal affairs of the countries in the region, even at the risk of new war." (AP)

Tuesday

STYLE

From Paris to Milan, from New York to Tokyo, fashion editor Suzy Menkes covers the fashion front. With additional reporting on lifestyle issues, the Style section provides up-to-date information on developments in the changing world of creative design.

Every Tuesday in the International Herald Tribune.

INTERNATIONAL Herald Tribune
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EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Clinton's Silence

On the level of pure performance, President Bill Clinton is probably the most gifted politician of the last half of this century. John F. Kennedy, of course, had a standard-setting talent, but was his press conference after the failed Bay of Pigs invasion as flawless an example of grace under pressure as Mr. Clinton's State of the Union address and the punch-slipping mastery of his Friday press conference? Not even Ronald Reagan possessed Mr. Clinton's extemporaneous smoothness, and by the time of his greatest scandal, Iran-contra, Mr. Reagan's gifts had eroded noticeably.

In the midst of his own crisis, Mr. Clinton is looking worn, but his ability to argue a shaky case, his voice control, his situational sincerity remain remarkably intact. But you have to wonder, based on the past two weeks, if he and his staff understand the metabolism of a long-running Washington story. It is striking, for example, that the president's lawyers and political spokesmen keep relying on the scorched-earth tactics that work in the compact time frame of a campaign.

But the rhythm of a governmental, as opposed to a campaign, scandal is different. After election day, everything ends. Victory is declared. Defeated victims become impotent ghosts, not potentially hostile witnesses. A full-blown crisis is different. Like a biological life, it moves not toward a date certain but toward a natural, organic completion that happens when it happens.

The impulses of an embattled president run toward a false faith that harmful information can be safely secured, like nuclear material in a lead container. But the modern experience has been that everything comes out, and that when the process starts, it overwhelms the classic defensive responses. One such response is a war on "leakers," such as that launched on

Friday by Paul Begala and David Kendall. Another is the slinging of both the press and turncoat witnesses.

That tactic is particularly demeaning to this president. Since his veracity is widely viewed as suspect, his appeals to grand-jury secrecy look more like a fear of truth than a defense of legal process. Since he is widely believed to have been intimately associated with at least some of the victims of White House slinking, the effect is to depict the president as a man who seeks friends in low places. Then there is what we might call the Chappaquiddick effect. If there are unanswered questions at the center of an official story, those questions don't disappear. They provide a permanent energy source.

Betty Currie may have been a harbinger of another predictable stage in a Washington scandal. Loyalty is the glue of politics, but natural honesty or the possibility of perjury conviction can be the solvent that melts that glue. Even unsworn endorsements are carefully worded. The White House is mad at George Stephanopoulos for conditioning his defense of Mr. Clinton on the assumption that Mr. Clinton is telling the truth. But if you read Vice President Al Gore's statements carefully, he built the same escape hatch into his defense of the president.

You have to wonder if there is anyone in the White House counseling the president not to hunker down behind the legalisms that he cited on Friday as he conscripted Tony Blair as a bodyguard. Having already acknowledged that the public has a right to his full story, the president says he cannot tell what really went on between him and Monica Lewinsky because the investigative process prevents it.

That is simply not true. The law is not tying his hands. But something has silenced his voice.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Tragedy in Italy

Accidents are a familiar and almost unavoidable result of the demanding training essential to military readiness. The global reach of American strategic commitments ensures that some number of these accidents involving Americans will occur on foreign soil. When they do, they invariably stir local passions, which can go beyond the exploration of human or technical error into a general questioning of the American tie. There has been a hint of this as the result of a terrible accident in which a low-flying American military jet sliced a cable car line in the Italian Dolomites, dropping a gondola 100 meters and killing the 19 skiers and one operator aboard.

The Marine Prowler surveillance aircraft that cut the cable at Cavalese came from a nearby NATO base at Aviano, to which it returned safely. It was practicing the sort of ground-skimming required to elude potentially hostile radar and air defenses in mountainous terrain — as, for instance, in nearby Bosnia. The question posed by this incident is whether the aircraft was respecting public-safety rules or acting out a real-life video game.

American rules evidently prescribe a minimum altitude of 1,000 feet (305 meters). Italian as well as American

pilots are known to careen down mountain airways, even to duck under cables and bridges, at terrific speeds. American and Italian investigators are now looking into the particular circumstances of the errant flight.

As always in these episodes, the first requirement is for straight talk and an abundant respect for local sensibilities. In this instance, even before an investigation had fairly begun, an American general at NATO offered an uncorroborated version of the flight exonerating the crew. Uncorroborated several days, it sent the extreme right and left in Italian politics into vivid Rambo evocations. Only then did U.S. military authorities acknowledge that the aircraft was flying hundreds of feet below the prescribed minimum.

General Charles Krulak, the Marine Corps commandant, has promised a diligent, open and fair investigation that would enforce accountability, in an American court, in the event of a finding of pilot error.

This is the right course. Italy is a firm NATO ally of the United States. Just recently the government approved alliance enlargement. The loss of 20 people is enough to pay for this tragedy in the mountains.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Republic of Oz?

When the 152 members of the Constitutional Convention wind up their two-week meeting in Canberra on Feb. 13, they will probably decide that Australia should replace Britain's Queen Elizabeth as its head of state. That would be a good decision for Australia. The more difficult question is what sort of republic should Australia become.

The model that the delegates pick for the Republic of Oz will be put to a referendum, probably next year. If Australians agree, their first president could be in office in time to open the Sydney Olympics in 2000, or at least to lead the celebrations — likely to be quite a party — the following year for the centenary of the Australian nation, marking the coming together in 1901 of a federation of British colonies once used as a dumping ground for convicts from the motherland.

The monarchy sits oddly with Australia's increasing cultural diversity. Australia stopped being predominantly an Anglo-Celtic country 50 years

ago. Nearly 14 percent of the country's 18 million people were born in non-English speaking countries. Republicanism will not stop racism, against them or the Aborigines, the country's first inhabitants, but it would reinforce the feeling of all Australians that this is their country, too.

Wherever Australia has broken away from its past, the brighter side of the country shines through. Despite the sneers from the old world, Australia's food and wine businesses, for instance, have developed into a world-class industry. That and other successes have helped to boost self-confidence. No longer do shoppers consider products good only if they come from Britain or America. Modernizing Australia's institutions could be a catalyst for more of this.

A directly elected president is what most Australians, distrustful of their politicians, say they would like. Needless to say, that idea makes politicians nervous in case the office becomes a rival seat of power.

—The Economist (London).

'Good Governance Is the Only Real Protection'

By Thomas L. Friedman

DAVOS, Switzerland — Asia's economic meltdown has spurred all sorts of would-be geo-architects to try to design some new, global mechanism that will regulate international capital flows and miraculously prevent global investors and speculators from ever again wreaking havoc.

I am deeply skeptical about such ideas, not because I oppose tempering market excesses but because I think that trying to do it on a global scale is nearly impossible. Risk, fear, greed and excess are intrinsic to markets. You cannot legislate them out without paying a huge price.

What is interesting is that while Westerners are trying to redesign the market, the Thais, Koreans and Mexicans at this year's Davos World Economic Forum were focused on redesigning themselves. They think their solution is better local government, not global government.

Their countries were like 50-watt bulbs plugged into 250-watt sockets, and when the surge came from the electronic herd of global investors, they blew up. Their reaction is to try to protect themselves with better regulation and more transparency.

Which is why both Thailand and South Korea elected the most democratic parties in their countries at the depths of this economic crisis.

There are some voices saying that perhaps integration has gone too far and too quickly — especially in financial markets. "Mexico's present, Ernesto Zedillo, told me. 'Well, I happen to believe just the opposite. Globalization poses challenges, but it offers tremendous opportunities. The fact that finance capital can move instantaneously indeed poses a risk, but jumping from that to say that we need to control movements of capital is totally wrong.'"

Yes, added Mr. Zedillo, we need a strong IMF to help in emergencies and to detect distortions in countries or individual banks. But at the end of the day, he said, "all of these financial flows end up in a local financial system, or as resources to be lent by local banks. What we have to look at is whether these [local] financial systems are sufficiently installing good banking and financial practices."

The Thai prime minister, Chuan

Leekpai, told me: "If you are going to be part of this global market, you had better be able to defend yourself from this market. One of the lessons of our crisis has taught us that many of our structures and institutions were not ready for this new era. Now we have to adapt ourselves to meet international standards. The whole of society expects it. They are looking for better government and transparent government."

You Jong Keun, the chief economic policy adviser to South Korea's newly elected president, said: "In the past, the Korean government used its political muscle to enslave the rights of shareholders, and business leaders were given power to make irresponsible business decisions. We are going to strengthen the rights of shareholders and help make sure that business decisions are taken in an accountable fashion."

As Bob Hormans, vice chairman of Goldman Sachs International, put it: "If your domestic institutions are strong, then you don't need very strong global institutions. If domestic institutions inside countries are weak, it won't matter how strong your global institutions are. They will not be effective."

Democracy does not guarantee that

you will never have an economic crisis. We know that. Markets overshoot. Investors take crazy risks.

But the more democratic, accountable and open your governance, especially as an emerging market, the less likely it is that your financial system will be exposed to surprises, the easier it will be for you to improve and adapt when it is, and the more legitimacy your government will have to share the pain when change is required.

Of those Asian nations which were fully plugged into the market (China is not), those with the most noncorrupt, transparent and accountable financial systems — Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore — have been hurt the least. Those that had democratic, but corrupt, systems — Thailand and South Korea — were hurt the second worst, but at least have been able to respond quickly by voting in better governments.

The country that is going to melt down is Indonesia. Its corrupt, authoritarian regime can't adapt.

"Look around the neighborhood," said the Thai finance minister, Tarrin Nimmannakorn. "Good governance is the only real protection."

The New York Times.

This Time, Help Iraqis to Get Rid of Saddam's Regime

By Richard Perle

WASHINGTON — The immediate provocation is Saddam Hussein's defiant attachment to weapons of mass destruction and his interference with UN inspectors charged with finding and eliminating them. Given the prospect of chemical and biological weapons in his murderous hands, military action is long overdue.

But the more fundamental threat is Saddam Hussein himself. As long as he remains in power, it is idle to believe that this threat can be contained.

That is why even a massive bombing campaign will fail — unless it is part of an overall strategy to destroy his regime by helping the nascent democratic opposition to transform itself into Iraq's new government.

America, alone if necessary, should encourage, recognize, help finance, arm and protect with airpower a provisional government broadly representative of all the people of Iraq.

Such a program would not be easy. But it has a better chance and is a worthier contender than yet another failed effort to organize an anti-Saddam Hussein conspiracy among retired Iraqi generals, or another round of inconclusive air strikes.

There is no — repeat, no — chance that even a carefully conceived and well-executed bombing campaign would eliminate the arsenal of chemical and biological weapons (and the capacity to make more of them) that Saddam has hidden away.

There is a real danger that an inadequate bombing campaign, especially if it appeared decis-

ive, would be quickly followed by calls from other nations to lift the UN sanctions on the grounds that the danger was over. This would be the ultimate example of winning the battle and losing the war.

A serious Western policy toward Iraq would be aimed at the destruction of Saddam's regime through a combination of military and political measures — with the political measures every bit as important as the military ones.

Chief among these would be open support for the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella opposition group in which all elements of Iraqi society are represented.

To be effective, support for the Iraqi opposition should be comprehensive; support given them in the past has been hopelessly inadequate. In fact, help for the Iraqi opposition, administered in an inept, halfhearted and ineffective way by the CIA, has been the political equivalent of the insubstantial, pinprick air strikes conducted against targets in Iraq in recent years.

A serious political program would entail five elements:

• Washington should, first, recognize the democratic opposition as the legitimate, provisional government and support its claim to Iraq's seat at the United Nations.

• It should begin to disburse to the provisional government some of the billions in Iraqi assets frozen after the Kuwait invasion.

• It should lift the sanctions on the territory (now principally in the north but likely to spread) not under Saddam Hussein's control. This would catapult these areas into significant economic growth and attract defectors from within Iraq. Much of Iraq's oil lies in areas that Saddam cannot now control or over which he would quickly lose control if an opposition government were established there.

• It should assist the opposition in taking its message to the Iraqi people by making radio and television transmitters available to them.

• It must be prepared to give logistical support and military equipment to the opposition and to use airpower to defend it in the territory it controls.

This is what should have been done in August 1996 when Saddam's troops and secret po-

lice moved into northern Iraq and murdered hundreds of supporters of the opposition Iraqi National Congress. Shamefully, America stood by while people it had supported were lined up and summarily executed.

Steps will argue that the Iraqi National Congress is too frail a reed on which to base a strategy for eliminating Saddam. It is indeed a small corps (of perhaps a few thousand); it would need to rally significant popular support. But it has been steadfast in its principled opposition to Saddam, consistent in its democratic ambitions, and, when given the chance, able to establish itself in a significant area of Iraqi territory.

It has earned American support by the sacrifices of its members. And with American backing it has a chance.

It would be neither wise nor necessary to send ground forces into Iraq when patriotic Iraqis

are willing to fight to liberate their own country.

I would not want to be in Saddam's tanks in the narrow defiles of northern Iraq, or in parts of the south, when U.S. airpower commands the skies.

This strategy aims at eliciting a full-blown insurrection, taking off from territory Saddam does not control and spreading as his opponents find security and opportunity in joining with others who wish to liberate Iraq.

There can be no guarantee that it will work. But what is guaranteed not to work is a quick-fix air campaign that leaves him in power.

The writer, a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, was U.S. assistant secretary of defense for international security policy from 1981 to 1987. This column is adapted from a longer article in *The Washington Post*.

Bush Was Right Not to Invade

By Philip Taubman

NEW YORK — As U.S. and British forces once again assemble for a possible air campaign against Iraq, George Bush's decision not to take Baghdad during the Gulf War is a natural target for criticism.

What if ground forces had seized Baghdad, captured Saddam Hussein and installed a more moderate government? What if Iraq today were a U.S. ally in the Middle East?

The idea of driving on to

Baghdad in February 1991 has powerful appeal today. Displacing Saddam would certainly have altered the course of the decade. The only problem with the concept is that it did not make sense at the time and would have been unjustified.

Making the case for marching to Baghdad requires disregarding political and military factors that even the most determined revisionist historian would find hard to overcome.

The surface logic of extending the war looks convincing. President Bush commanded a mighty military force in the region, including half a million ground troops, far larger than the one now in place. After a month of aerial bombardment and four days of ground combat, Iraqi forces were disintegrating under a powerful mechanized assault. Kuwait was liberated, and a drive to Baghdad probably could have been accomplished in a matter of days, if not hours.

But wars are not fought in a political vacuum, and the pressures on Mr. Bush to end the battle were considerable. The United States and its allies were acting under UN Security Council resolutions giving them authority to evict Iraqi forces from Kuwait, not to conquer Iraq. Had Mr. Bush ordered an assault on the Iraqi capital, the Gulf War coalition would have shattered; Egypt and Syria would have broken with Washington, along with France. The Soviet Union, still intact and

still a formidable power, was ready to withdraw the tacit but critical support it had given to the campaign to free Kuwait.

Mr. Bush and his advisers worried about the perception, growing by the hour, that U.S. forces were needlessly slaughtering retreating Iraqi troops.

Perhaps there was excessive sensitivity on this point, an extension of the modern American idea that war can somehow be a bloodless exercise, but television images of burning Iraqi tanks and bodies along the "Highway of Death" were a powerful brake on additional attacks.

There was the possibility that U.S. troops would face greater resistance as they closed in on Baghdad, and might suffer many casualties in combat in the city.

Then there was the question of occupation. If U.S. forces took Baghdad, they could not turn around and go home a week later even if they were welcomed as liberators, which was far from certain. The United States, without strong international support, would have faced a long, expensive stay as it tried to install a new government and help reconstruct a country traumatized by war and years of murderous dictatorship.

Clearly, the world would be a safer place if Saddam were not running Iraq. But as Bill Clinton considers his future military options, and comes under ever greater pressure to unseat Saddam, he may find the Gulf War a useful guide. The idea of toppling Saddam is an alluring goal that grows more problematic the closer it gets.

The New York Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Literary Duel

BREST — A telegram to the *Figaro* states that a duel with swords was fought yesterday (Feb. 7) between a naval officer, Lieutenant de Vaisseau de Belloy, and M. Chesneau, editor of the *Dépêche de Brest*. The latter was wounded in the hand at the third reprieve. The duel arose over an article which M. Chesneau wrote in his paper praising M. Zola's attitude in the Dreyfus case from a literary point of view.

1923: Obesity Tax

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] A little town in Sweden has put a local tax on fat men. It is declared that "the fat man stands accused by the very fact of his too solid flesh" (vide "Hamlet") of "gluttony and laziness." Millions of fat men throughout the world may rise up and denounce as liars the town

councillor who drew up this cruel indictment and those who voted for it, but the gender way of reproving them would be to point out the truly recognized danger of generalization in almost any statement of supposed fact. Not all fat men are lazy and gluttonous. Obesity is in many a congenital habit of body; in others a disease.

1948: Spanish Border

PARIS — The French government announced last night (Feb. 7) a progressive reopening of the Spanish frontier that will start tomorrow at midnight with a resumption of normal passenger traffic by land, sea and air. At the same time, the communique stated, postal telephone and telegraph communications will be re-established. The frontier was closed in February, 1946, as a political protest against the regime of Generalissimo Francisco Franco.

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HEALTH/SCIENCE

Depression: A Surprising Risk Factor in Coronary Disease

By Sally Squires
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Through the centuries, poets and writers have poignantly described how extreme sadness — what is now called clinical depression — can lead to illness and even death. In classic literature, tragic characters took to their beds and died, felled presumably by the intensity of their depression.

Many doctors have also long recognized the role that emotions play in illness, noting that the will to survive can make a huge difference in survival. They also know that illness can have a profound psychological effect on patients. Now new research suggests that depression and heart disease are inextricably

linked in a potentially fatal combination. "Depression is a disease with an enormous impact on many people," said Alexander Glassman, co-author of a review article in the *American Journal of Psychiatry*. "It takes an appalling toll, and now we see that not only does it affect your psychological health, it affects your physical health too."

In their article, Dr. Glassman and Dr. Peter A. Shapiro from Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons point to five studies published in the past two years that found that physically healthy people who suffered from clinical depression were significantly more likely to develop heart disease than their nondepressed counterparts. In addition, a number of studies have shown that depressed patients face

nearly double the risk of a heart attack that those who are not depressed have.

Depression also seems to help determine how long people with heart disease will survive. Patients who are depressed after suffering a heart attack — either because they had previously suffered from depression or develop it as a result of their heart problems — also have a worse long-term prognosis. Their risk of suffering a second heart attack is about three times higher than their happier counterparts, according to a study in the *Journal of Circulation* by a team of Belgian researchers.

In another study, Dr. Nancy Frasure-Smith and her colleagues at the Montreal Heart Institute tracked heart-attack survivors for 18 months. They found that those who were also clinically depressed faced up to three times

the risk of dying from another heart attack compared with their non-depressed counterparts.

For these reasons, "the need to find a safe and effective treatment for depressed patients with heart disease has intensified," said Bruce G. Pollock, director of the geriatric psychopharmacology program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and a co-author of a report on a multicenter trial of drug treatments for depression and heart disease published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

HIGH blood pressure, elevated blood cholesterol, diabetes and excess weight are known to increase the risk of heart disease. Now there are hints that depression may turn out to be as im-

portant as these other risk factors," said Dr. Frasure-Smith, a psychologist who is an associate professor of psychiatry at McGill University.

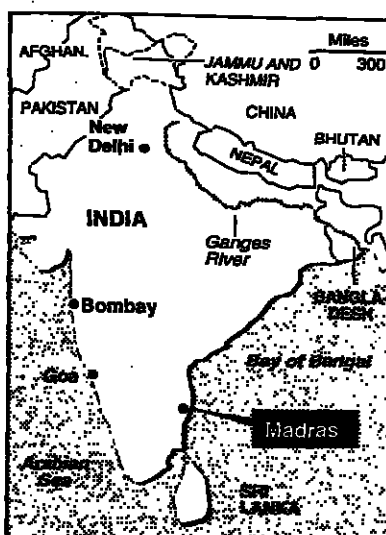
Researchers first raised the specter of depression's role in heart disease in the 1970s, when they found that people with depression were more likely to smoke, a habit that also raises the risk of heart disease. But by the late 1980s, a study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta controlled for smoking and still found a strong link between depression and heart disease.

"It was a surprise," said Dr. Glassman, chief of clinical pharmacology at Columbia and a co-author of the CDC study. "We really did expect that the effect of depression on cardiovascular disease would either disappear or be very trivial, but when we analyzed

the data we found that it was strong." The link between heart disease and depression shown in this and the other studies "raises two questions," he added. "Why does this happen, and how can we change it?"

At Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Dr. Robert M. Carney, a behavioral-medicine researcher and his colleagues found that depression was linked to changes in heart rate, which could help explain the increased risk of heart-attack deaths.

Cardiologists had already shown that reductions in heart rate increased mortality, but Dr. Carney and his team also observed that the imbalance in brain chemicals or neurotransmitters that occurs in depression somehow altered the way the nervous system controlled the heart.



Touching is allowed at the Madras Crocodile Bank, as long as the croc is small and has its mouth tied shut.

Fears Aside, Saving the Crocodile

By Stephen Kinzer
New York Times Service

MAHABALIPURAM, India — A glint of fascination shone in the face of the 10-year-old Yon Anikumar, as he looked into a mud pit where more than 100 crocodiles were basking in the afternoon sun. Every few minutes, one of them shifted position, slid in or out of a shallow pool or yawning widely, showing rows of the teeth that have given rise to countless horror stories around the world.

After awhile, Yon looked up at his father. "If I had no fear, I would go in," he said very seriously. "But I have fear, so I will stay out."

Yon and his family were among the 500,000 people who visit the Madras Crocodile Bank every year to see one of the world's largest collections of crocodiles and alligators.

Not all are as wise as he. Some throw sticks or stones over the low fences, hoping to provoke the animals. A French visitor waved her handbag and succeeded in attracting the attention of a 10-foot (3-meter) crocodile. It leaped up, snatched the bag in its jaws and swallowed her passport as franc notes flew about.

"She wasn't hurt, but she had to go to the French Embassy and try to convince them that a croc had eaten her a passport," said Nikhil Whitaker, a 19-year-old budding herpetologist who is an assistant curator here.

"Our main problem with visitors is that they're used to mammals that run

up and down in their cages," he said. "Crocs don't do that. They like to bask for hours, so it's tempting for people to do stupid things to get them to move."

The Madras Crocodile Bank, near the Bay of Bengal on India's southeastern coast, is home to 5,000 crocodiles and alligators representing 10 of the 23 existing species, including the three crocodile species, all considered endangered, that are native to India. Its income comes mainly from admission fees, but showing the leathery creatures to visitors is not its main mission. The bank was founded in 1976 by Mr. Whitaker's father, Romulus, an American who still directs the operation, and his mother, Zai, an Indian, as a way to save crocodiles from slaughter and possible extinction. They planned to breed them and restore native species to the wild.

In the years since the opening of the Madras Bank, the Whitakers and their supporters have broadened their mission and adjusted their plans. They have concluded that in the face of poaching and widespread habitat destruction, one way to save many species is to make them economically valuable. Farming these creatures, they say, may be a means of insuring their survival. The Whitakers now hope to establish an industry in which Indians can make money by raising them and selling their meat and skin.

Thus far, neither their original goal nor their newer one looks realistic. The government banned the sale of crocodile products in 1975 and is reluctant to repeal the ban. Officials say they do

not have enough law enforcement officers to make sure that poachers would not descend on rivers and swamps to kill wild reptiles, selling their meat and skin while claiming that the animals had been legally raised in licensed farms.

Crocodile and alligator farming has been successful in Zimbabwe and the United States, Dr. Thorbjørnson said. "The idea is that if the animals are worth something, people are more likely to protect them and their habitats," he said. "But the Indians don't want any commercial use of their crocodiles."

Nikhil Whitaker said: "Sentiment is also a factor. Some people feel for these animals as they would for a pet. This is a country where last year there was a campaign to save rats and cockroaches from dissection."

THE idea of releasing native species of crocodiles into the wild has been only marginally more successful. There have been a few releases, but none since 1994. Habitat destruction has drastically reduced the number of places where they can be released, and villagers do not like the idea of living alongside them.

The Whitakers' conservation work has been internationally recognized, and they are planning to open a second bank in Goa, on India's western coast.

"We'd like to get all 23 species, breed them all and establish a gene pool," Mr. Whitaker said. "Everything we do is aimed at making sure that these animals are appreciated enough so they can survive for another 250 million years."

A Vitamin Shield for the Heart?

By Jane E. Brody
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A high intake of two B vitamins found in fruits, vegetables and other common foods appears to reduce by nearly half women's risk of suffering a heart attack, a study has shown. The study also confirmed a protective effect on women's hearts of drinking moderate amounts of alcohol.

The study, conducted among more than 80,000 women who are nurses, is the first to show a direct link between these B vitamins, folate and B-6, and protection against coronary disease. It suggests that eating more fruits, vegetables and whole grains or getting these B vitamins from supplements is as important as quitting smoking, lowering high cholesterol and controlling blood pressure in preventing premature death from the leading killer in the United States.

The finding, published in *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, also suggests that the current Recommended Dietary Allowance of folate and B-6 for adults other than pregnant women is inadequate to provide maximum protection against heart disease. The National Academy of Sciences Food and Nutrition Board currently suggests that to prevent nutrient deficiencies, adults should consume 180 micrograms of folate and 1.6 milligrams of B-6 each day. But the most cardiac protection in the new study was achieved with daily intakes of more than 400 micrograms of folate and more than 3 milligrams of B-6. B vitamins from

Asparagus to Spinach

A daily intake of more than 400 micrograms of folate and more than 3 milligrams of B-6 may cut a woman's risk of a heart attack nearly in half, a new study indicates. Many cereals and grains are fortified with added B vitamins. Below are some other foods rich in those vitamins.

FOLATE In micrograms per cup	
Orange juice	45
Black-eyed peas	210
Cooked asparagus	262
Cooked spinach	262
Cooked lentils	358
Chicken liver	1,078
B-6 In milligrams	
Plantain, 1 medium	.54
Banana, 1 medium	.58
Chicken, 1 cup	.66
Beef liver, 3 oz.	.77

Sources: United States Department of Agriculture

either foods or supplements were found to be protective.

"Everyone should be at two to three times the current RDA for folate and B-6 to achieve the maximum reduction in risk," said Dr. Eric Rimm of the Harvard School of Public Health, who directed the study. "The exciting news is that a substantial reduction in risk can be achieved easily, without a dramatic change in diet," Dr. Rimm said. "You don't have to give up everything you eat. You just have to eat more foods like

fortified cold cereals, orange juice, spinach and other leafy greens, whole grains, bananas, potatoes, chicken and fish."

The Food and Drug Administration recently authorized the fortification of flour with folic acid, which is the form of folate used by the body and the form found in multivitamin supplements. Although the agency's primary goal was to prevent the birth of children with spinal deformities, fortification is also likely to increase significantly the folic acid intake among children and adults and thus should help protect against heart disease.

"The findings of the current study encourage the view that with intervention through supplementation, fortification, improved dietary intakes of folate and Vitamin B-6 and better food processing and distribution methods, the decline in U.S. cardiovascular mortality and morbidity will continue," Dr. Kimmor McCully wrote in an accompanying editorial.

The researchers said they expected that the findings would also apply to men. Studies in men and women have shown that folate and B-6 consumed through foods or through foods and supplements reduced levels of the amino acid homocysteine and protected against narrowing of the arteries that feed the brain.

Other studies had linked high levels of homocysteine in the blood to a greatly raised risk of suffering a heart attack. Homocysteine is believed to increase coronary risk by one or more of several mechanisms: damaging cells that line arteries, fostering blood clots and narrowing blood vessels by promoting growth of smooth muscle cells.

BOOKS

NOW AND THEN:

From Coney Island to Here

By Joseph Heller. 259 pages. \$24. Knopf.

Reviewed by Jonathan Yardley

PEOPLE curious about the connections between "Catch-22" and the life of its author will find a few tantalizing tidbits in "Now and Then," Joseph Heller's memoir, but mainly this is a book about his boyhood in Coney Island. As such it is lovely, the best writing Heller has done since the novel that made him famous, a richly evocative account of a vanished place and way of life. "Now and Then" is funny, albeit in a subdued rather than uproarious way, and it is touching without ever being even remotely maudlin.

Unlike so many of today's callow and self-inflated memoirists, Heller has lived a real life, full of incident and occasion, and has a real story to tell. In "Catch-22," this book makes clear, he told one important part of his story — certainly the most dramatic part — disguised as fiction, in his bitterly sardonic narrative about how air force bombardiers coped with the terror and lunacy of warfare. As he indicates here, there have been other, more private dramas, including a well-documented siege of Guillain-Barré syndrome and a long marriage that contained much happiness but ended in prolonged rancor.

But it is clear now that the most important story Heller has to tell about himself is that of his boyhood. As one who is quite unapologetically drawn to such stories, I was ready to be pleased by this one, but what matters is that Heller not merely met my expectations, he exceeded them. Coney Island during the 1920s and 1930s is a place and time about which I, like most others, knew almost nothing. But after reading "Now and Then" I feel as though I had been

there myself, and am most grateful for that.

Heller, who is now in his early 70s, lived with his widowed mother and his brother and sister — many years later he learned that they were actually his half siblings, from a previous marriage of their father's — in a four-room apartment in Coney Island, a "safe, insular and secure" neighborhood in the famous old Brooklyn resort, a place where "I never heard of a rape, an assault or an armed robbery." The residents were Italians or, in Heller's little corner of the world, Jews. They had little money, but they came into the world with the expectation that life would be hard, and they taught themselves to enjoy such pleasures and satisfactions as it offered them.

"Looking back, I find it something of a miracle that from such a beginning the four of us in my family separately and independently eventually found ourselves with enough money to satisfy our needs and our material wants. Our expectations, while varying considerably, were disciplined. We did not want what we could not hope to have, and we were not made bitter or envious by knowing of people who had much more."

The occasional neighborhood Communist proselytizer got nowhere with us. Neither, I must record, did the dedicated anti-Communist ideologue, not then or later. We worked at what we could because we never doubted we had to work, and we felt fortunate indeed that we could find work.

They also found plenty of play. Coney Island had passed its heyday by the 1920s — though it was bright and glorious by contrast with the sad, dilapidated condition it now endures — but the two famous old amusement parks, Luna and Steeplechase, were still in business, and the beach was eternally inviting. It was simultaneously a resort and a neigh-

borhood. "Even at this late date," Heller writes, "people I meet with a large stock of memories of visits to Coney Island still express surprise upon hearing that I grew up there, that families lived there, and still do, and that children were brought up there, and still are."

Indeed it is hard, at least if one is of a certain age, not to think of a childhood at Coney Island as something unique, precious and wonderful. Heller does little to disabuse us of that notion. The picture he paints is of a close, happy, almost Edenic — if one can imagine that word applied to any aspect of New York City — community, a way station between ethnic distinctiveness and assimilation into the American mainstream, where children inherited and respected the traditions their parents brought to this country even as they learned to be Americans themselves. But there were many other such communities, in New York and elsewhere. What made this one so uncommon was that it existed smack in the middle of a place that to most other New Yorkers — except those sufficiently privileged to inhabit the shores of Long Island or the Hudson River — seemed a fairytale land.

HELLER tells many funny, vivid stories about the pranks he and friends played, the explorations they undertook in the amusement parks, the adventures they had beside and in the water.

Many other places and experiences were central to Heller's life, and he writes about them to varying degrees in this book: the war, his education on the G.I. Bill, his marriage, his various jobs — in particular the one at Time out of which emerged his second novel, "Something Happened" — and his literary apprenticeship. But Coney Island was the core, the absolute center. Going back there with him is a joy.

Washington Post Service

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE second of two big European Pairs contests, the Macallan Invitational, had two remarkable features. The victory of the Norwegian partnership of Geir Helgemo and Tor Helness was not in itself surprising, but their margin was overwhelming: They finished with 77 percent, a record on such occasions; they won 14 matches out of 15 and were 2 matches clear of their nearest rivals.

The other noteworthy event was the stellar performances of the two women's pairs. Placing second and third, ahead of bunches of male world champions, were Pat Davies and Nicola Smith of Britain, and Sabine Auken and Daniela von Arnim, who regularly

represent Germany. All four have won world titles.

The standings in the field of 16 pairs were: first, Helgemo and Helness, 693 victory points; second, Davies and Smith, 529; third, Auken and von Arnim, 510.

The only all-American pair in the field, Bob Hamman and Bob Wolff of Dallas, finished eighth. The winners in The Hague, Tony Forrester of Britain and Zia Mahmood of Manhattan, split up and finished fourth and sixth with, respectively, Jeff Meckstroth of Tampa, Florida, and Andy Robson of Britain.

Zia, whose imaginative experiments give him both triumphs and disasters, had one of the latter on the diagrammed deal against the winners. He opened one no-

trump, disregarding a dictum of Edgar Kaplan: "There may be a hand on which it is right to open one no-trump with a five-card major, but I myself have never found it."

Helgemo, West, cashed six diamond tricks and shifted to the heart 10. The defense wound up with six tricks in each red suit plus the club ace. That amounted to 2,000, a very rare score, and the Norwegians were on the way to victory.

Clearly Zia would have done much better if he had retreated to two spades. If doubled, that would have cost just 500, and East-West would have had to settle for a game.

When it was over, he was given a tip by the Indian star Jaggy Shivdasani, who asked, "Didn't you learn from the

NORTH	
♠ 10 7 2	
♥ K 3	
♦ 8 7 5	
♣ 9 7 6 5 4	
WEST	
♠ 6	
♥ 10 8	
♦ A K Q 10 9 6	
♣ A J 10 3	
EAST	
♠ J 9 8 3	
♥ A K Q J 3 2	
♦ 2	
♣ 8 2	
SOUTH (D)	
♠ A K Q 5 4	
♥ 7 6 5 4	
♦ J 4 3	
♣ K Q	

Both sides were vulnerable. The bidding: South 1NT, West Pass, North 2NT, East Pass. West led the diamond king.

INTERNATIONAL

3 Nations Follow Kohl's Lead in Backing the U.S. in Standoff With Iraq

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

MUNICH — The Clinton administration gained political support Sunday in its confrontation with Iraq as the Dutch, Canadian and Polish governments echoed Chancellor Helmut Kohl's endorsement of U.S. determination to use armed force if necessary to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Signs of momentum among allied governments over U.S.-led military action also sharpened demands for more information from European politicians, who said they needed clearer explanations of the objectives of air strikes or other military options in Iraq to sway skeptical segments of public opinion in their countries.

"What will you do on the morning after?" was a question raised frequently this weekend by cabinet ministers, members of Parliaments, government officials and academics from a dozen European countries, Russia and the United States at a conference on international security in Munich.

Without offering any details of how Washington hoped to verify the disarmament of Iraq after a military campaign, Defense Secretary William Cohen told the Munich Conference on

Security Policy that U.S. power would be applied strongly enough to "reduce or curtail" any threat that Iraq could continue manufacturing chemical or biological warheads or the missiles to deliver them on nearby nations.

His phrasing, similar to that used recently by President Bill Clinton to describe U.S. military objectives in any campaign against Iraq, suggested that Washington was preparing public opinion for air strikes that would not eradicate Iraqi weapons-making capability.

Instead, according to officials in the audience, Mr. Cohen seemed to be describing a situation in which the United States would have to conduct a sustained bombing campaign that enabled missiles and warplanes to strike repeatedly at the same targets to destroy facilities suspected of housing facilities or stocks of toxins — and then knock out other facilities liable to be used to reconstitute weapons-making laboratories.

Referring to the likely operational difficulties, Fred Ikle, a defense official in the administration of President Ronald Reagan, said Americans and their allies should be prepared for a long trial of military strength and for political tests.

"Since the only real exit strategy is the exit of Saddam Hussein, this confrontation is going to be open-ended in time," he warned.

As Mr. Cohen sought to pile up proof of Iraq's determination to acquire weapons of mass destruction, the tension surrounding the Iraq crisis spilled over onto the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's role in Bosnia and other trans-Atlantic issues, setting off blunt exchanges between U.S. legislators and their European counterparts.

"It should go without saying that the allies will support us on Iraq," said Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, warning of a backlash in Congress and U.S. public opinion if European countries failed to rally behind Washington.

Other U.S. senators, including Charles Robb, Democrat of Virginia, and Kay Bailey Hutchison, Republican of Texas, said support for a continued U.S. troop presence in Bosnia might suffer if Americans believed Europeans were turning their backs on a global issue as important as weapons proliferation in a rogue state such as Iraq.

Several U.S. officials described a mood of impatience, even irritation, among members of Congress over Europe's reluctance to spend more on security, including the cost of enlarging NATO.

But moves to ease U.S. concerns were quickly forthcoming from Germany, with Mr. Kohl offering strong backing to Mr. Clinton's policy of seeking to exhaust diplomacy and then use force

if necessary to meet the threat of Iraqi weapons. Bonn had previously said little on the issue, which put the Germans in the position of having to side with Washington or with Paris, the leading Western critic of U.S. policy toward Iraq.

Mr. Kohl appeared to feel free of such political inhibitions Saturday, saying that Mr. Clinton "seemed to have a point about Iraq." He added that while no one had asked him, he was ready for German air bases to be used by U.S. and British warplanes if they went into operation against Iraq.

German opposition leaders, including Rudolf Scharping, the Social Democratic leader in the Bundestag, went just as far in supporting U.S. policy, which they said had been misrepresented in some European countries by factions that did not want to face the seriousness of weapons proliferation in Iraq.

In another gesture designed to soothe Washington, Mr. Kohl said Bonn was ready to maintain its current troop strength in the follow-on force to take over in June in Bosnia and was urging other countries to do the same — allowing the United States to pocket all the savings on troops. Bonn has called for the new force to be cut sharply from the current levels.

The German proposal is likely to be rejected

this week during NATO meetings, alliance officials said, because the United States will probably want to retain the present set-up and U.S. command, at least through national elections in Bosnia in September. But the German offer is likely to mute U.S. complaints about burden-sharing in Bosnia, they said.

Without saying how or when it might be possible to determine that diplomacy was dead and military attack had become the only option, the German offer of support on Iraq keyed a more sympathetic European hearing to U.S. views than had been forthcoming outside Britain.

Assurances of political support — and probably practical help if needed — came from cabinet-level officials from the Netherlands, Canada and Poland.

The Dutch government has already shipped half of the nation's stock of gas masks to Israel as a gesture of solidarity.

Defense Minister Art Eggleston said Canada supported U.S. preparations for military strikes against Iraq and was considering whether it would take part in them.

"Military force can be used perhaps to ensure that UN resolutions are abided by," he said. "Canada is considering its possible participation in this matter."

Nuclear Aid to Ukraine Is Delayed as U.S. Seeks To Block Iran's Program

By David B. Ottaway
and Dan Morgan
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration, acting to thwart Iran's nuclear ambitions, has blocked the provision of American nuclear technology and fuel to Ukraine until it cancels plans to sell turbines needed to complete the first such Iranian power plant, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

The nearly yearlong diplomatic dispute has become a serious irritant in the otherwise close relationship developing between Washington and the second-most populous former Soviet republic.

It also is creating problems for American companies and complicating U.S. efforts to break Russia's long-standing control over Ukraine's nuclear-power sector.

Westinghouse Electric Corp. wants to bid on a \$1.2 billion project to complete two Russian-designed nuclear plants in Ukraine. But the impasse over the turbine sale has stalled U.S. approval of a nuclear cooperation agreement with Ukraine that would permit Westinghouse to sell technology, equipment and fuel to Kiev.

The dispute highlights the extent to which U.S. efforts to isolate Iran have come to define American policy toward an growing number of important European countries. Russian and French companies already are under threat of congressionally mandated sanctions for helping Iran develop its energy sector.

In the case of Ukraine, U.S. diplomatic efforts are focused on preventing completion of a 1,000-megawatt atomic plant in Bushehr, Iran, now being constructed by Russian companies under an \$850 million contract. Russia planned to acquire the turbines for the plant from the Ukrainian company Turbotom.

Iran has promised to accept international safeguards against nuclear proliferation at the facility, but the Clinton administration contends that the plant is related to a secret Iranian plan to develop nuclear weapons.

In a bid to prevent the sale of the turbines to Russia, the Clinton administration in December offered the Ukrainian government a package of small business loans, export-import Bank credits and joint ventures, along with military and space cooperation and the prospect of future access to U.S. nuclear fuel, according to government sources.

The aid package is intended to compensate Ukraine for hundreds of millions of dollars in lost business if it forgoes the turbine sale, and to set the stage for intensified economic cooperation with the United States.

In return, however, Ukraine would have to cancel plans to supply the turbines to Russia.

The dispute is testing U.S. relations with the government in Kiev, which, struggling to consolidate its six-year-old independence, now finds itself caught between Moscow and Washington.

Along with carrots, the Clinton administration also is brandishing a stick.

Vice President Gore, who is in charge of policy toward Ukraine, has told President Leonid Kuchma that if the turbine deal goes forward, the U.S. government will not sign an accord on peaceful nuclear cooperation — a congressionally mandated condition for Ukraine to acquire much-needed U.S. technology and fuel for the two unfinished nuclear reactors, according to U.S. and Ukrainian officials.

But Russian officials are trying to persuade Ukraine to go ahead with the turbine sale. They have warned Turbotom that it could forfeit future deals to supply components for other Russian reactors if it backs out of the deal, according to Yuri Shcherbak, the Ukrainian ambassador to the United States.

At the same time, he said, Russia has offered its own credits and technology to complete two Ukrainian reactors at Rivne and Kamensk, and later to supply the fuel to operate them. This would cement Ukraine's total reliance on Russia in the nuclear field.

Ukraine is vulnerable because nearly half its electricity is generated by nuclear power. Moreover, Mr. Kuchma faces a serious challenge in March parliamentary elections from leftist parties critical of his cooperation with Washington.

Also at risk is a budding Ukrainian relationship with Israel, which opposes

the turbine sale because of the threat that Iranian nuclear arms could pose to Israeli security.

Last April, Mr. Kuchma told the visiting Israeli trade minister, Natan Sharansky, that Ukraine would not supply the turbines. In August, however, a senior Ukrainian official indicated that the turbine sale was under consideration even though it would "complicate relations with our partners."

In an interview last month, Mr. Shcherbak suggested that his country was caught in the middle of a U.S.-Russian tug of war. "The best way is to have the United States and Russia directly solve this problem," he said.

The pending turbine sale to Russia is not covered by U.S. sanctions laws, a senior State Department official acknowledged. Those sanctions apply to foreign companies investing in Iran's energy sector.

Last fall, however, Congress voted to hold up half of U.S. aid to Russia until President Bill Clinton certifies that the Russian government has stopped nuclear cooperation with Iran. So far, the Russians have shown no willingness to comply, U.S. officials say.

Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican of Kentucky, a strong Ukraine advocate who is chairman of the Senate subcommittee that drafts the annual foreign aid spending bill, warned in a recent interview that an unduly rigid approach toward Ukraine could drive the country back into Russia's arms.

"The belligerent approach doesn't make sense in this situation," Mr. McConnell said. "All you have to do is look at a map to figure out how important the Ukraine is to stopping a resurgent Russia. It's big and geographically significant."

GERMANY: A Neo-Nazi Wave Builds as Hopes Sour in the East

Continued from Page 1

— 353 of them involving violent attacks. Just over half the attacks on foreigners were in Eastern Germany, according to these figures, despite the much smaller Eastern population of 17 million and the much smaller proportion of foreigners there.

Predominantly in their teens, though some are even younger, these jobless or school-age skinheads boast their own emblems like shaven heads and paratrooper boots, and even their own heavy rock music. Drawn largely from the huge, anonymous housing projects of the old East Germany, many espouse the anti-American views expressed in songs like that of one rightist rock-band called Tonsteiner, meaning "sound-jammer."

"USA, we don't want you/USA, we don't need you here," they chant. After 65 years of dictatorship — first under Hitler, then under the Communists — and after more than seven years of widespread disillusion with the fruits of reunification, social workers say, extremist, rightist ideology offers young people a nationalistic vision of superiority that translates frequently into violence.

And, they say, at a time when teenage violence is rising in many parts of Europe, this new groundswell of neo-Nazism is markedly different from the wave of extremist arson attacks on foreigners that marked the first three years of reunification. Then, rightist rage was directed primarily against the Turks and other foreigners who make up 9 percent of Germany's 82 million.

Now, the drive for so-called liberated zones divides towns like this into rival fiefs of left and right.

The railroad station here, for instance, is considered off-limits by many of those who frequent the Alternative Literature and Info Café — the youth club Mr. Zschöge set up four years ago in a low building adorned with Che Guevara and anti-Nazi murals. Intended as refuge from neo-Nazism, it is now virtually a bunker, with boarded-up windows covered in steel mesh to shield against firebombs.

"There are situations to avoid," said Nicole, an 18-year-old high-school student who declined to give her full name. Even among her school classmates, she said, "the right is in the majority."

Some young leftists and local journalists say they believe tacit support for the rightists spreads in more official strata. When the café was firebombed,



A woman buying cases of water off a truck in Kuwait, where many are stocking goods in case of an Iraqi attack.

IRAQ: Saudis Won't Help in a Raid, but U.S. Gets NATO Support

Continued from Page 1

That brings the total in the region to well above 300. Most of the new aircraft are going to Kuwait or Bahrain; two Gulf states that have signaled a willingness to allow an attack.

With the new deployments, the United States will send six more F-117 Stealth fighters, doubling the number based there since the current crisis with Iraq first flared last autumn. An additional B-1 bomber will join a pair of the bombers in Bahrain. Mr. Cohen also sent six more B-52s to Diego Garcia, the British outpost in the Indian Ocean, raising to 14 the total number of B-52s there.

All of those — along with cruise missiles and additional fighters in Kuwait and Bahrain and aboard American carriers in the Gulf — would be even more essential to any attack.

Mr. Cohen also left open the possibility that some American aircraft based at Prince Sultan Air Base southeast of the Saudi capital, Riyadh, could provide support for fighters launched from Kuwait, Bahrain and the carriers. Those could include AWAC surveillance and communication jets and tankers for midair refueling.

Another official traveling in Mr. Cohen's party said those requests remained on the table and would be a focus of the meetings with the Saudi rulers Sunday night. The senior defense official said it was likely Saudi Arabia would allow American bombers based elsewhere to fly over Saudi airspace, though that was not yet settled.

Mr. Cohen also said Saudi Arabia would continue to allow American and a few British and French jets to patrol the flight exclusion zone over southern Iraq.

"We do expect support in the region itself, and we would hope the Saudis would continue to be as helpful as they have been," he said.

Saudi Arabia is one of the United States' closest Arab allies and a major regional power. During the Gulf war, Saudi Arabia provided a crucial base for the 500,000 American and allied troops that ultimately routed Iraqi forces occupying Kuwait in 1991.

However, without the violent occupation of another Arab state and with many Arabs sympathetic to the plight of the Iraqis after seven years of UN sanctions, Saudi Arabia has found the idea of another round of strikes on Iraq unacceptable.

"I think most people think a military option is not the preferable option," Mr. Cohen said. "We have said that ourselves."

Iran Court Ratifies Death for Journalist

Reuters

TEHRAN — Iran's Supreme Court has ratified the death sentence for Morteza Firoozi, a prominent newspaper editor convicted of spying, a newspaper reported Sunday.

Mr. Firoozi, a former editor-in-chief of the English-language daily Iran News, has been in custody on spying charges since May.

Iran has not named any country for which Mr. Firoozi was alleged to have spied, but Iranian newspapers, which last year carried brief reports of his then-rumored arrest, had said he was accused of spying for the United States.

about 1,000 people had taken part in the march.

Rightist and leftist activists had clashed Saturday as thousands of supporters of a far-right party congregated in Passau to promote their cause before the September national election.

STARR: Prosecutor's Tough Tactics Strike a Nerve at White House and Start a Debate

Continued from Page 1

your office is now employing of selectively releasing both information and falsehoods in an attempt to pressure, manipulate and intimidate witnesses and possible witnesses, affect public opinion in your favor and cause political harm to the president."

Mr. Kendall's attack on Mr. Starr put into sharp public focus a battle over the independent counsel's methods that has been simmering for several years. In that battle, leaks to the press may be the least serious of the abuses of which Mr. Starr has been accused by his critics.

For some of the people who found themselves in the independent counsel's sights, the debate about whether Mr. Starr is merely an aggressive prosecutor or one who has abused his vast powers is long overdue.

"For someone to have the power to just go in and tear a person's life to pieces with no truth, to me that's wrong," said Sarah Hawkins, a former Arkansas bank officer who was threatened by Mr. Starr's office with a felony indictment that could have subjected her to five years in prison. First cleared by Mr.

Starr, she was then threatened with a new investigation when she appeared as a defense witness in a Whitewater land development case.

In the end, no charges were ever filed against Ms. Hawkins, who was once the compliance officer at Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan, the financial institution at the heart of Mr. Starr's Whitewater inquiry. But, Ms. Hawkins said, the experience was devastating. "When you go through what I went through with the independent counsel," she said, "it changes your life."

In a series of interviews, several people who have been Mr. Starr's targets described pressure tactics.

Among them were implications that elderly parents would be drawn into the scandal, and theatrical touches like surveillance by plainclothes officers that seemed intent on alerting friends and neighbors that someone they knew was in trouble with the law. Several people who were threatened with prosecution said Mr. Starr's aides had suggested they could get themselves out of trouble if they invented information about wrongdoing of others, including Mr. Clinton.

Mr. Starr, who did not respond to a

request for an interview for this article, has consistently maintained that his office is operating with high ethical standards. He and his deputies have heatedly denied they were looking for anything but the truth.

They have suggested the criticism of them comes from Clinton partisans, an accusation that is almost indisputable, since by definition many of the people implicated by the investigation have, or once had, close ties to Mr. Clinton.

Some experienced prosecutors say the concerns about Mr. Starr's methods arise simply because most people do not know the methods prosecutors use regularly.

"There is a reason to worry about the heavy-handedness of prosecutors, especially in major cases," said Philip Heymann, a Harvard law professor who was Janet Reno's first deputy attorney general. "But it is also true that the normal techniques of prosecutors are far more aggressive than most people think."

Some former prosecutors who have been criticized themselves for aggressive techniques said some of Mr. Starr's tactics were troubling.

Thomas Puccio, a defense lawyer who has been a federal prosecutor, said that

BRIEFLY

Sierra Leone Capital Under Artillery Fire

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — A heavy artillery bombardment broke out Sunday afternoon on the outskirts of Freetown while West African peacekeepers trying to restore the country's deposed government advanced toward the city, local radio reported.

A pirate radio station still loyal to the government of President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah said the Nigerian-led peacekeepers were moving toward Freetown from Portee, about 10 kilometers away. The station, which is widely thought to be supported by the peacekeepers, urged civilians to stay off the streets.

The peacekeeping commander, however, denied in a telephone interview that his forces were on the offensive.

"We are only defending ourselves," Major General Timothy Sheldip, a Nigerian, said from Monrovia, Liberia, where he is based. "If they use small arms, we use small arms, if they use artillery, we use artillery."

Shortly after noon, heavy artillery fire could be heard on the edge of Freetown, with shells landing every couple minutes. It was not immediately clear which side was firing the weapons. (AP)

South Chad Gunmen Release 4 Frenchmen

PARIS — Four Frenchmen kidnapped by an armed group in Chad last week have been released and are in good health, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

The four men, whose identities have not been released, were seized Tuesday near the southern town of Sarh by a group called the Union of Democratic Forces. French authorities said the group had made no demands for the men's release.

"Our four compatriots, in good health, should be back in N'Djamena today," the Foreign Ministry said. (AP)

U.S. and Mexico Vow Joint Attack on Drugs

MEXICO CITY — The United States and Mexico have declared a joint attack against drug trafficking, less than two weeks before the Clinton administration is to announce its decision on certifying Mexico as a cooperative partner in the struggle against drugs.

The counternarcotics strategy, made public in both countries' capitals, reiterates many old promises — some never kept — and makes new vows of cooperation. It pledges cooperation in sharing of intelligence and prosecution information; in fighting government corruption on both sides of the 2,000-mile border and in coordinating law enforcement efforts.

In about two weeks, Mr. Clinton is expected to recommend to Congress that Mexico be certified a reliable partner in efforts against drug trafficking. The head of the White House anti-drug office, Barry McCaffrey, disputed assertions that the release of the report was timed to bolster that recommendation, which would allow Mexico to retain U.S. economic assistance. (WP)

Mr. Starr's "wiring" of Linda Tripp to try to capture Ms. Lewinsky on tape suggested Mr. Starr was using excessive zeal to try to gain evidence of relatively minor offenses.

Mr. Starr is believed to be pursuing suggestions that Mr. Clinton might have lied in a deposition in the Paula Jones sexual misconduct civil suit about whether the president had a sexual relationship with Ms. Lewinsky or might have sought to have her lie.

Adviser Sees a 'Witch Hunt'

Paul Begala, a Clinton adviser, was harshly critical Sunday of the Starr investigation, calling it an "ongoing witch hunt."

"There are real questions about this investigation," he said on NBC TV. Mr. Begala said he thought Mr. Starr had "become corrupt in the sense that Lord Acton meant when he said, 'Absolute power corrupts absolutely.'"

He asserted that leaks were coming from Mr. Starr's office "that might be criminal" and that were grossly misleading. "So far, the score on leaks has been a whole lot of lies and not very much fact," he said.

International Education

Quest for Standards Splits U.S. Educators Opponents Want More Freedom For Schools to Set Own Agendas

By Edward B. Fiske

WASHINGTON — They're chanting a new mantra in American education: "academic standards." Raising the achievement levels of American students to "world-class standards" has become a major priority for President Bill Clinton, business leaders and other educational reformers. They see it as a key to making sure American workers will be competitive in the emerging global economy.

The president has made "standards-based reform" the centerpiece of an ambitious education program that includes the first-ever national tests of reading and mathematics. Mr. Clinton plugged the testing program in his recent State of the Union message to Congress, declaring, "Parents have a right to know whether their children are mastering the basics."

For Republican leaders, political conservatives and many grass-roots organizations, however, the push for higher standards is nothing more than a misguided effort to extend the long arm of

the federal government into public education and to undermine innovation at the local level. Rather than impose new "top-down" mandates, they say, government policy should be directed at giving schools more freedom to set their own academic agendas.

Whatever their position, however, most educators and political leaders would agree that the struggle for standards has become the newest fault line in national education policy. The concept of academic standards is simple. Standards are documents that list what students at various grade levels should know and be able to do. It is also a relatively new concept for educators and one that tends to baffle non-Americans.

Most developed countries have national curricula and national tests, so the question of what schools teach rarely arises. In the United States, however, public education is constitutionally a function of state and local government, so there has never been a national debate, much less a consensus, over what students should be learning and how well they should be learning it.

The situation began to change in 1983 when a national report, entitled "A Na-

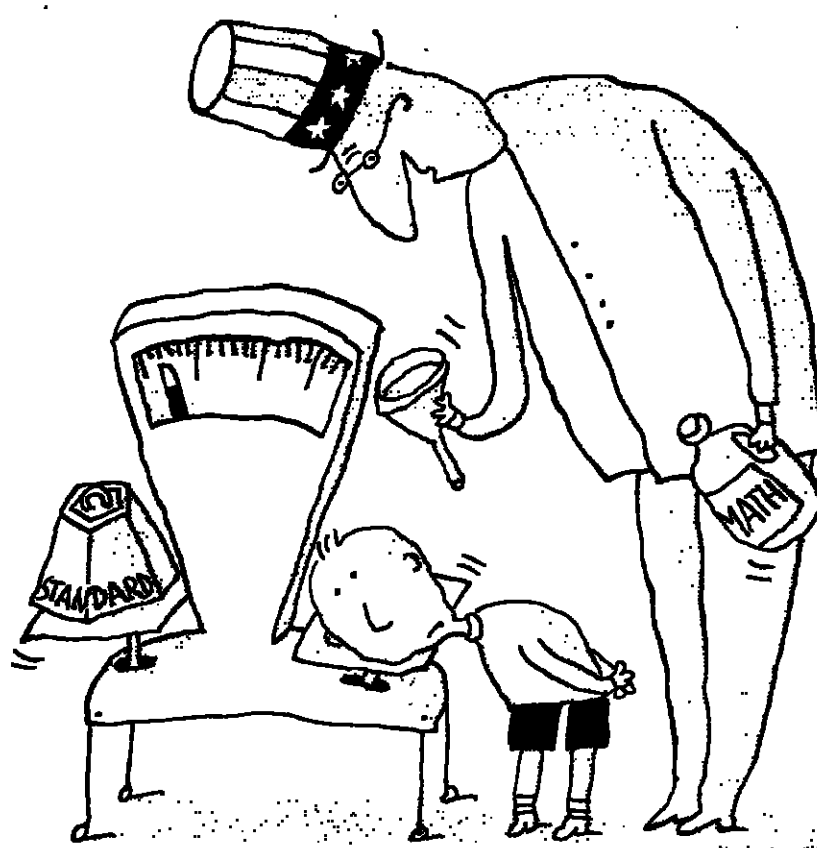


Illustration by David Coverly

tion at Risk," warned that a "rising tide of mediocrity" in primary and secondary schools threatened the economic and social well-being of the nation. In 1989, President George Bush convened the governors of the 50 states for an unprecedented "education summit" to draw up a set of national goals for education. One of them proclaimed that

the nation's students would be "first in the world in mathematics and science achievement by the year 2000."

Since then virtually every state has raised the educational ante by drawing up some form of state-level standards. Many states have backed their new

Continued on Page 14

Europe Stakes Out 'Knowledge Society' EU Stresses Multimedia Needs But Warns Against Exclusions

By Barry James

RUSSELS — Wrestling with a record postwar level of unemployment, the European Commission says bluntly that civilization based on the production of physical goods has gone for good and that the European Union will increasingly become a "knowledge society."

The commission's blueprint for the future, known as Agenda 2000, states that innovation, research, education and training jointly form a fundamental pillar of the EU's internal policies.

"Real wealth creation will henceforth be linked to the production and dissemination of knowledge and will depend first and foremost on our efforts in the field of research, education and training and on our capacity to promote innovation," the commission said in a recent document called "Towards a Europe of Knowledge."

The commission warned, however, that emphasis on education based on information technology could create new forms of exclusions in society, dividing the cyber-haves from the have-nots. It said the knowledge society must

include those who leave compulsory schooling with inadequate qualifications and provide training for the unemployed as well as strengthen participation in apprenticeship systems.

At the same time, the commission has stressed the need to introduce information technology at an early age. Last year, in a project demonstrating how the new technology could be introduced into the curriculum, it sponsored a project to link together 10,000 schools across the Internet in a program called Net@ys.

Primary school students in Brussels, for example, produced an on-line newspaper with students in Poitiers, France, and a cross-border chemistry experiment with students in Luxembourg.

The program was concerned as much with overcoming computer phobia among teachers as stimulating the enthusiasm of children. About 2,800 teachers, three quarters of whom described themselves as computer illiterate, attended introductory courses as a preparation for the on-line work.

Multimedia technology is considered particularly valuable in broadening the horizons of schoolchildren in remote areas. In the French Alps Maritimes region, for example, students in scattered settlements edit a weekly electronic newspaper called L'indimad that educators say has improved their written language and their aptitude for team work.

France recently approved a program, costing 1 billion francs (\$160 million) a year over three years, to introduce computers, software and training into the education system, ranging from nursery schools to universities. With contributions from regional governments, the total cost of the program could reach 15 billion francs in one of the most sweeping programs in Europe to introduce information technology into the general education system.

Claude Allègre, the minister of national education, said the plan was designed to avoid the mistakes of a project

INSIDE

It's not easy to find the right school to learn English. Page 10.

Steiner schools have gained popularity in Eastern Europe as the region looks for new education models. Page 11.

Malaysia has embarked on a major effort to "wire" its schools. Page 12.

Britain plans to connect all schools to the Internet by 2002. Page 13.

'Black' colleges are luring back their own in the United States. Page 14.

Continued on Page 13

West Braces for Fallout From Asian Crisis

By Joseph Fitchett

PARIS — Economic turmoil in Asia will play havoc with the flow of Asian students to English-speaking countries for advanced education, according to education officials in Western and Pacific capitals.

By the time the full impact of the Asian currency crisis hits enrollments next summer, officials said last week, the United States and Britain, which have the lion's share of Asian students, will be hit hard. Worst off of all could be Britain, which may lose up to half of its currently enrolled 18,000 Malaysian students, the largest national group in British institutions.

The near-collapse of the currencies in some countries means that many foreign

students, most of whom pay their own way or find sponsorship in their own countries, now face sharply higher costs. Except for a small number who qualify for U.S. financial assistance, the cost of a year's tuition and living expenses on a Western campus could effectively double.

Ironically, the crisis could benefit Australia. Education Minister David Kemp said last month. The Australian dollar has strengthened less dramatically against most Asian currencies (and itself weakened against the British pound), improving its edge in travel, tuition fees and living costs over most other Anglo-Saxon countries.

Fast-developing Asian countries have provided strong demand for higher education abroad, usually in English and particularly in business management. For host institutions — and host

countries — these fee-paying foreigners have become increasingly important. Long seen as a plus for intellectual diversity, foreign students have now become a competitive stake in international trade. Higher education is the fifth largest service sector export of the United States. It brought in \$7 billion last year on college tuition, board and living expenses, according to the Department of Commerce.

John Meyers, director of development at the Bank Street College of Education in New York City, said the bottom line was grave everywhere. The fiscal crisis in Asia, he said, "is likely to have a profound impact on the number of students able to consider and afford education opportunities outside of their borders."

U.S. institutions lead the world this year in foreign enrollments with nearly

500,000 students, more than half of them from Asia. The 276,000 Asians were led by Japan (46,000), followed by China (42,000), Korea (37,000), India (31,000), Taiwan (30,000), Thailand (13,500) and Hong Kong (11,000).

Among these groups, the most vulnerable are clearly the Koreans and the Thais, followed by Hong Kong Chinese. Even the Japanese will be hit by the fall in the yen against the U.S. dollar.

A similar crisis arose in 1979 when the Iranian revolution cut off Tehran's support for Western education for young

Continued on Page 12

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How Do You Do When It Comes to Choosing a Course in English?

There are about 1,000 language schools in Britain and a similar number in the United States. The cost of a typical week's tuition can range from \$200 to more than \$1,000 depending on the for-

For financial and practical reasons, many students prefer to study at a language school in their home country. The U.S. government has maintained close links with about 40 binational cultural

The British Council has a worldwide network of more than 100 English language teaching centers. Tuition fees tend toward the high end of the range, but the


the world's largest private education organization. The general English programs that it offers are mirrored by many other international schools. They in-

Those who need to improve their English language skills in order to be accepted for a place at university will generally be steered toward a course that leads to an internationally recognized qualification. The Test of English as a

These days it is even possible to learn a language in cyberspace. EF International is one of a growing number of language schools to offer on-line English courses. It has also designed a forum — EF Englishtown — to enable people from all over the world to meet and chat in English.

BARBARA WALL is a journalist specializing in personal finance.

DON KIRK reports for the
International Herald Tribune
from Seoul.



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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

Britain's Vision for 21st Century: All Schools Linked by Internet

By Tom Buerkle

LONDON — Britain has long considered itself to be at the forefront of information technology, from the pioneering research conducted at Cambridge University's Computer Laboratory to putting information technology on the required curriculum of primary and secondary schools in 1995, the first major industrial country to do so.

Now, the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has set a new goal with far-reaching consequences: creating a National Grid for Learning that will connect all of the country's schools to the Internet and give all students an e-mail address by 2002. Mr. Blair has taken advice recently from Bill Gates, the Microsoft chairman, and the government last month launched a prototype of the grid with a Virtual Teacher Center, a web site that aims to spread good teaching practices and offer advice on raising targets for numeracy and literacy.

For Kim Howells, the undersecretary of state for education, the program is a simple recognition of the pervasive role of information technology in society, and will ensure that the nation's youth have the skills and knowledge to work in the 21st century. "I don't see how we can keep on pretending that we don't have to prepare kids for university and the workplace, where computer literacy is fast becoming a necessity," he said.

Many building blocks are already in place. Mr. Howells said about 20 percent of the country's 40,000 schools, including the vast majority of secondary schools, are connected to the Internet, many with their own web sites. Britain also has more computers in its secondary schools — one for every 8.5 students in 1996 — than any Group of Seven country, and it lags only behind Canada and the United States for primary schools, according to Research Machines PLC,

the country's biggest provider of Internet service and educational software to schools.

While there is little hard evidence that information technology itself raises educational standards, most early reports from the classroom are positive.

"We've seen a tremendous improvement in learning generally," said Jim Donnelly, head teacher at Litherland High School near Liverpool. The school has one of the most ambitious information technology programs in the country with nearly one personal computer for every two students, although so far they are more likely to run interactive CD Roms than surf the Internet. It also stays open two evenings a week to give students from poor families, which make up nearly half the enrollment, a chance to keep pace with students who have computers at home.

"I've been waiting for most of 30 years to see this happen," Mr. Donnelly said. The government program is not with-

out controversy, however. Some educators question the high priority given to information technology at a time when many schools need basic repairs and 1.5 million primary schoolchildren are in classes of 31 or more students. "The cost of IT equipment vies against other equipment in an inadequate school budget," said Olive Forsythe, a spokeswoman for the National Union of Teachers.

THE government appears determined to fund the program, though. It pledged an extra £100 million (\$164 million) for computer equipment and software in October, and last month it set aside £235 million of national lottery proceeds to give information technology training to teachers. "Unless teachers realize that this is going to be a serious part of their lives, it won't succeed," said Father Christopher Jamison, head of the Worth School, a private Roman Catholic high school in Sussex. There are also traditionalists who fear

the program will divert attention from the instruction of basic reading, writing and arithmetic skills.

"Information technology is not the answer to education in the sense of a particular understanding of the basic skills," Princess Anne told a recent conference of heads of independent schools. "Without the basic skills, we cannot use the information that is available." Proponents insist those fears are overblown as long as computers are used properly and teachers can learn to become facilitators in their pupils' pursuit of knowledge.

At Worth, where computers are emphasized as a research tool, library use and book use have actually increased since the school installed 120 computers with a £500,000 private donation four years ago, Father Jamison said. "Students become more self-sufficient researchers." They also can learn at their own pace, a potential boon for the gifted and the learning disabled alike, he added.

Perhaps surprisingly, security is not a

big issue for many educators. Father Jamison noted that pornography has been an issue virtually since the invention of the printing press. Like most schools, Worth places its computers mainly in public areas like libraries, where students tend to work in groups under supervision rather than in isolation.

Still, Mr. Donnelly said there was a need for some type of public service body to verify the quality and accuracy of education-oriented information on the Internet, just as textbooks are approved today. So far, that job is left up to service providers. Research Machines, for example, provides its Internet for Learning software to about 4,000 schools, which offers links to educational web sites categorized by subject and age and filters out unsuitable material.

TOM BUERKLE is the International Herald Tribune's London correspondent.

EU's Blueprint For Knowledge

Continued from Page 9

begin in the mid-1980s, called Information for All, which failed because of inadequate preparation. Most of the computers ended up in closets and less than 20 percent of teachers used the material in their lessons, he said.

He added that the task now is not only to introduce computers and software into schools but to change thinking and teaching methods profoundly in order to bring about what he called "a synthesis between the culture of the written word and the culture of images."

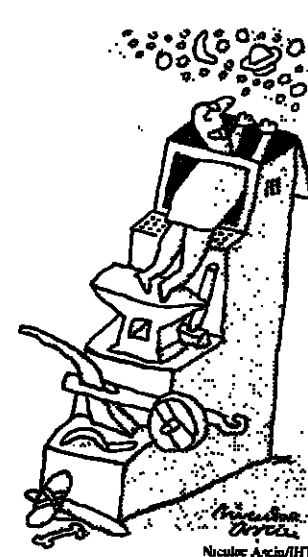
The European Commission's campaign to promote information technology is spearheaded by a former French prime minister, Edith Cresson, who is responsible for research, education and technology. Along with Martin Bangemann, the commissioner in charge of industrial affairs, information and tele-

communications, she has established a task force on multimedia educational software that is intended to create high-quality online educational services by 2000. The commission said the quality of existing educational software is not high enough.

The commission also is promoting plans to have all universities connected to broadband communications networks within a couple of years to enable them to play a leading role in the use and development of educational multimedia.

In a joint statement, Mrs. Cresson and Mr. Bangemann warned that the task of wiring up schools throughout the EU is vitally necessary to keep the EU competitive in the global economy.

"Time is running out," they said. "Only a small proportion of schools in the European Union are suitably equipped. Too few teachers have received adequate training in the use of new tools for educational purposes, or are



even sufficiently aware of their teaching potential.

"Finally, only a small number of educational multimedia software programs are available in the European market. The situation is in marked contrast with other regions of the world, most notably the United States, where a major effort to equip schools with multimedia has been under way for several years."

BARRY JAMES is on the staff of the International Herald Tribune.

Blair Aims to Rescue Worst-Performing Schools

By Veronica Forwood

LONDON — It couldn't have been more timely. Just as Britain sets itself the task of trying to rescue some of its poorest schools from persistent failure, word has come that the malaise within the education system appears to reach to the very top — to Oxford University itself.

Undergraduates at the university taking first-year English language and literature exams in 1995 missedpell 140 commonly used words, with efforts such as "abolition" for "abolition," "capitalist" for "capitalist," and "disillusioned" for "disillusioned."

The revelation that even the country's finest are failing to meet what were once considered norms of literacy shows the scale of the challenge that Prime Minister Tony Blair faces as he tries to fulfill his election pledge to equip Britain with a "world-class education system."

The Schools Standards and Framework Bill now being discussed in Parliament will, if it becomes law, introduce radical plans to address Britain's diminished academic record in relation to other developed economies.

An international report in 1995 showed English pupils performed below the majority of advanced industrialized countries in mathematics at primary and early secondary school level, while another study found that only half of all 11-year-olds were reaching the required level in English and mathematics.

Mr. Blair wants to tackle the problem of worst-performing schools in deprived areas by creating Education Action Zones. These would be run by a partnership of businesses, local education authorities and parents.

Schools in the zones could focus on particular parts of the national curriculum according to their needs, such as basic literacy and numeracy teaching. They could also win funding priority to set up specialist schools, nurseries and family literacy projects.

The education bill also includes measures allowing for direct ministerial intervention in failing schools. The government would have power to close and reopen schools under "fresh-start" programs.

Despite its approval for many parts of the bill, the largest teachers' union, the National Union of Teachers, has voiced alarm at giving business a direct role in running schools and opposes "plans to allow parts of the education service to be run at a profit."

Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, said recently, "Every penny available should be used to improve provision for the children in our schools, not to line the pockets of shareholders or owners of private companies."

One of the education bill's features is the establishment of "after-school homework clubs" to help pupils with educational problems. The

classes of the "after-school homework clubs" will be held in the grounds of professional soccer clubs. It is hoped that the chance to meet a soccer star will encourage children to attend.

After-school clubs are to start soon at Sheffield Wednesday, Newcastle United and Leeds United. Other top clubs are expected to follow.

For example, at Sheffield Wednesday FC, in Yorkshire, northern England, a program starts this month under which children aged 9-13 will be invited to the club. Eighteen schools will be involved in the first year, five of them secondary schools. Children will be selected by their schools; it is hoped that those selected will view it as an opportunity, not as a badge of failure.

The study centers will concentrate on literacy, numeracy and information technology skills.

The government will put £2 million (\$3.2 million) into the £6 million initiative, called "Playing for Success," with local education authorities, businesses and the clubs paying the rest.

All the children selected will be "underachieving" only, and not pupils who are disaffected or truanting, according to Sue Bealey, a study center manager.

VERONICA FORWOOD is a freelance journalist based in London.

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INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION / A SPECIAL REPORT

'Black' Colleges Are Luring Back Their Own From the Ivy Leagues

By Edward B. Fiske

WASHINGTON — Ivy League and other prestigious universities in the United States compete vigorously to recruit the best and the brightest of each year's crop of African-American high school graduates. Last June Malaika Jones was one of them.

A top student at Woodrow Wilson High School in Washington, Ms. Jones was admitted to Harvard College and Trinity University, a selective liberal arts college in Connecticut. Instead of accepting an offer that most high school students can only dream about, however, she enrolled in Spelman College, a black women's liberal arts institution in Atlanta.

"It's not that I didn't like Harvard," she explained. "It's just that I loved Spelman and felt more comfortable there."

Ms. Jones is one of a growing number of academically superior African-American students in a position to attend virtually any institution of higher education in the country but who are opting for the top tier of what are known as

"historically black colleges and universities."

In addition to Spelman, these include private institutions such as Morehouse College in Atlanta, Howard University in Washington, D.C. and Hampton College in Hampton, Virginia. Another is Florida A&M, a public institution, in Tallahassee.

Students and college officials cite several reasons for the trend. The academic quality of the top black institutions has increased dramatically over the last decade, and their admissions offices have become more aggressive and sophisticated in recruiting top African-American candidates.

Equally important, however, are social and personal considerations. Many blacks at predominantly white institutions find themselves living outside the mainstream of campus activities, with social options restricted to a relatively small group of fellow African-Americans.

"Many blacks find white colleges to be segregated, unresponsive and damaging to their self-confidence," said Suzanne Malveaux, a 1989 Harvard graduate who did her senior thesis on African-American students who had transferred to Howard from white institutions.

"They want to be part of a community where they feel comfortable."

Some of the students now opting for black colleges are the sons and daughters of the first African-Americans to enter prestigious white institutions in substantial numbers in the 1960s and 1970s. Keith Ferrouillet, whose father graduated from Brown University, was accepted at several highly selective colleges, including the University of California at Berkeley and Williams College in Massachusetts, but he opted for Howard.

"It's not that my father didn't enjoy his experience at Brown," said Mr. Ferrouillet. "But there is a different atmosphere at a predominantly white school. I figured that I would learn more about myself and my own race at a place like Howard. My father supported my choice."

There are nearly 200 "historically black" colleges and universities in the United States, many of which were founded after the Civil War to educate African-American clergymen, teachers, physicians and other professionals. They produced generations of black leaders, including the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr., a Morehouse graduate.

The civil rights movement of the



On campus at Spelman. Students say they feel part of a community.

1960s posed a threat to the best black institutions because it gave top African-American students more academic options. Spelman, which was known as "the black Vassar," began losing students to the real Vassar College.

The tide began to turn again in the 1980s, however, aided by the fact that

black colleges gained new visibility and increased financial resources. Bill Cosby, the comedian, donated \$20 million to Spelman and featured the college on his television program. Oprah Winfrey, the talk show host, made major financial contributions to Spelman and Morehouse.

The top black institutions invested heavily in new faculty and programs. Spelman, for example, which was always known for its strength in the arts and the humanities, now turns out large numbers of professional scientists.

Students who opt for black rather than prestigious white colleges acknowledge that there are tradeoffs. "We have a pretty good library, but it's still not like Harvard's," said Ms. Jones of Spelman. "But the teaching is good, and the faculty members really care about their students."

Some black students try to get the best of both worlds by enrolling in a prestigious white institution but spending some time at a black institution as well. Jay Stewart, who graduated from Harvard, attended Howard for one semester because "I had gone to mostly white schools all of my life and wanted to know more about my personal background."

Carter Stewart, his brother, graduated from Stanford University but spent a semester at Morehouse. "It was an incredible experience to be surrounded by other black people," he said. "Blacks build defenses in predominantly white environments, and you lose them at a place like Morehouse. You don't have to be on guard all the time."

The Quest for National Standards Sparks a Heated Debate in U.S.

Continued from Page 9

standards up with vigorous accountability measures. In Kentucky, for example, teachers in schools where students exceed specific achievement goals receive financial rewards, but schools in which students do poorly on state tests face sanctions, including takeover by the state.

Some of the most significant work on standards has been done by professional organizations. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics published a set of national standards for their field, and their counterparts in other subjects have followed suit. American students appear

to be responding in their own way. The number of students taking advanced subjects has soared in recent years. While in 1982 only 14 percent of students took what "A Nation at Risk" defined as a basic curriculum, that figure is now more than 50 percent.

Efforts to raise the level of student achievement are by no means restricted to the United States. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development recently carried out case studies

of educational innovations in 13 countries in an effort to inform policymakers about what constitutes effective school reform.

Despite all the talk about standards, however, it is far from clear that achievement is rising as fast as school reformers would like. Results of the Third International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS), released last year, showed that U.S. fourth graders scored well above average in both subjects but that

eight graders were below average in math and only slightly above average in science.

"It seems that the longer American students are in school, the worse they do in relation to students in other countries," said an administration official, who would not speak for the record.

TIMSS data on 12th graders is scheduled to be released later this month, and most researchers expect it to confirm the pattern of decline.

On the surface, academic standards would seem to be

an apple pie issue. Who can be opposed to U.S. students doing better in school? But many political and educational leaders believe that the setting of standards, especially at the national level, is the wrong way to go about it.

Other challenges to the standards movement come from those who believe that the key to better schools lies in breaking up the monopoly of public school systems and creating new organizational structures. Thirty states have passed laws permitting local groups to establish "charter schools" that would receive public funds but operate with considerable autonomy in matters such as curriculum, hiring and scheduling.

There are now more than 800 charter schools in the country, with sponsorship running across the socio-economic and political spectrum. Founders of charter schools range from inner city blacks who are dissatisfied with the quality of schools in their neighborhood to right-wingers who distrust any schools run by the government.

Amy Stuart Wells, a professor of education at the University of California at Los Angeles who is conducting a major study of charter schools, also points out that charter schools have varying definitions of what constitutes success in schooling.

"Some people create charter schools so their children can learn more about their particular culture or learn how to be part of a community," she said. "These are all legitimate objectives, but you may not be able to measure success in meeting them with a set of externally imposed academic standards."

Most proponents of standards-based reform are quick to point out that standards in and of themselves are meaningless. What counts are the steps that educators and others take to help students reach them. Some advocates fear, however, that too many states and school systems are simply adopting standards and then sitting back to watch what happens.

John Jennings, director of the Center on Education Policy in Washington, D.C., cited a study by the American Federation of Teachers showing that, although 49 states are using higher academic standards to drive reform, only 13 of them are requiring local districts to provide academic intervention for students who fail to meet the standards.

"The country needs to raise the academic standards in its schools," he said. "The good news is that we are on our way to doing that. The bad news is that we don't yet realize that it will be a long and arduous task."

Edward B. Fiske is a former education editor of The New York Times.

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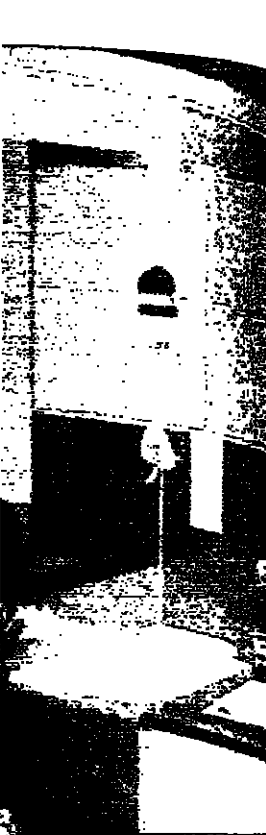
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French Franc	6.55
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Portuguese Escudo	200.48
Belgian Franc	6.55
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James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, left, meeting with President-elect Kim Dae Jung in Seoul.

Crisis Prompts Asia's Leaders to Bend

Many Seem Ready to Trade Some Sovereignty for Increased Stability

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

SINGAPORE — Southeast Asia's financial and economic upheaval is persuading leaders in the region to accept the idea of giving up some sovereignty in return for greater stability, analysts said Sunday.

The continuing turmoil is increasing pressure on governments to acknowledge the need for greater transparency and closer policy coordination, even if it means abandoning or modifying long-established rules of noninterference in one another's internal affairs.

The contagious spread of currency depreciation from Thailand to its neighbors since July and the clear evidence that economic and political failings in one country can have serious repercussions on investor confidence in others are prompting members of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, to be more critical of one another and to work out new forms of institutional cooperation to handle problems.

The latest such move could lead to the introduction of a single regional currency similar to the euro, which is scheduled to be introduced Jan. 1 in the European Union.

Although many economists remain skeptical that the ASEAN plan will amount to much, the idea has gained impetus in recent days.

Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia said Saturday after meeting his Singapore counterpart, Goh Chok Tong, that they had agreed that ASEAN "should present a united front in dealing with the currency issues and not deal with each one by itself, because then we will not get the full effect."

ASEAN groups Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Mr. Mahathir said Singapore had backed Malaysia's proposal for ASEAN members to use their own currency or currencies for regional trade instead of the U.S. dollar and that Mr. Goh had agreed that the region's central bank governors should meet to work out details.

Malaysian officials see the plan as a long-term solution to reduce dependence on the dollar, conserve foreign-exchange reserves and cushion the im-

pact of currency speculation, which they say helped caused the current crisis.

Mr. Mahathir visited Thailand and the Philippines last week and gained support from leaders there for the plan, even though most of ASEAN's trade is with countries outside the region and there is expected to be resistance to any new regional trading arrangement from businesses who prefer to deal in dollars.

Still, there is little doubt about the potential significance of closer policy coordination, even if it is being forced on ASEAN by recent events.

Late last year as their currencies and stock markets plummeted, ASEAN members agreed to join a wider East Asian economic surveillance mechanism linked to the Tokyo office of the International Monetary Fund, although it may be financed and run by the Asian Development Bank based in Manila.

This monitoring body, to be established soon, will coordinate macro-

economic policies of participating countries and exert "peer-pressure" on governments judged to be failing to meet certain standards.

"This implies that individual governments will have less independence than before to deal with problems within their own physical borders," said Robert Broadfoot, managing director of Political & Economic Risk Consultancy Ltd. in Hong Kong. "They will have to listen to the opinions of neighboring governments and international organizations more than in the past."

He said this could affect the way even the most sensitive issues were discussed, such as corruption or favoritism in awarding contracts and other forms of government business.

"All of a sudden, issues like corruption are no longer systemic abuses that are no one's business other than the country where the offense takes place," Mr. Broadfoot said. "They have the potential to cost other countries billions of dollars, and those countries will therefore

be less tolerant of abuses elsewhere."

Underscoring this trend toward greater candor in dealing with what were previously considered the sacrosanct internal affairs of ASEAN member states, the press in Singapore — a country that has traditionally been wary of faulting the policies of its much larger neighbors Indonesia and Malaysia — printed excerpts Sunday from a speech by Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew in which he specifically referred to the governments of Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

In the speech, Mr. Lee warned that in an increasingly integrated international economy, countries in the region could no longer ignore the need for reform. "East Asia's economic miracle had its weaknesses," he said. "In going helter-skelter for economic growth, many governments did not strengthen their banking systems. Had there been adequate legislation and rigorous supervision, the excessive borrowings that went into real estate, the stock market and unproductive industrial expansion would have been noticed and checked before they ballooned out of control. Corruption and cronyism exacerbated these problems."

Mr. Lee said that when the crisis came to a head, for several months political leaders and their officials in the finance and banking sectors refused to accept the market's verdict.

"They did not accept that things had gone wrong and that their weak banking systems and loose credit policies had been at fault," he said. "Their refusal to accept the new realities made investors sell out and cut their losses. This stampede deepened the crisis. Investors lost confidence not just in particular projects or countries but in the entire region."

Mr. Lee said the root of the problems was political.

"Ministers had not heeded the warning signals from the market because they were preoccupied with political difficulties," Mr. Lee said. "The Thais had six governments in five years, and none had the time to attend to the gaping current-account deficits. Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir condemned foreign speculators."

As for Indonesia, Mr. Lee said, President Suharto "thought that he could ride out this crisis as he had ridden so many others in the past 30 years."



James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, left, meeting with President-elect Kim Dae Jung in Seoul.

Seoul Opens the Door a Little Wider

Foreigners to Be Allowed Into Short-Term Money Markets Next Week

By Don Kirk
International Herald Tribune

SEOUL — The government unveiled plans Sunday to allow foreigners into short-term corporate money markets as of next Monday, in another move to open the country's financial markets.

The decision, a renewed effort at luring foreign currency into a cash-short economy, means that foreign investors can purchase commercial paper, or short-term corporate debt, and corporate bonds through commercial banks and other institutions.

South Korean officials saw the decision as fulfilling part of the \$60 billion bailout program arranged by the International Monetary Fund, which has mandated the opening of financial markets here. Foreigners until now were limited to purchasing long-term corporate bonds.

The primary motive behind the move, however, was the hope that an infusion of foreign investment would help lower interest rates, which have been hovering above 20 percent after reaching a high of 32 percent in December.

Officials have been calling for a decrease in interest rates to between 16 percent and 18 percent, saying it was the only way South Korean companies could borrow the funds they needed to turn out the products for export that they view as essential to economic recovery.

The government announced the move just as two figures heavily involved in the country's economic future were concluding visits here.

James Wolfensohn, president of the World Bank, and Hubert Neiss, the Asia-Pacific director of the IMF, cautioned against what they saw as premature ef-

orts on the part of South Korean leaders to bring interest rates down.

Mr. Wolfensohn, at the end of a six-nation tour of Asia, told reporters that "it is very necessary to have a high interest policy to stabilize the situation at the time of crisis." He attributed the relative stability of the South Korean stock market and the won over the past few weeks to just that policy, saying "You have already seen positive results of that."

Mr. Wolfensohn repeated the warning in a meeting Saturday with President-elect Kim Dae Jung. "Korea needs high interest rates to stabilize the markets," a spokesman for Mr. Kim quoted Mr. Wolfensohn as having said.

Mr. Wolfensohn also pledged to speed up \$2 billion in aid to South Korea to help extricate itself from its financial crisis, Agence France-Press reported.

"As you know, we have already advanced \$3 billion toward the Economic Reconstruction Loan and are looking at a further \$2 billion very shortly and a further \$5 billion during the course of the year," Mr. Wolfensohn said at a news conference in Seoul on Saturday.

Asked when the \$2 billion would arrive, he said, "Within the next two or three weeks, probably."

The World Bank in December pledged as much as \$10 billion to South Korea as part of the IMF assistance program.

Mr. Neiss, leading an IMF team for a quarterly report on South Korea's economy, also warned against lowering interest rates in a meeting with Finance Minister Lim Chang Yul but said they might go down gradually as the economy improved.

The Finance Ministry revised the long-standing rules on foreign investment after representatives of govern-

ment, business and labor reached a compromise on a bill that would permit layoffs under "emergency" circumstances by cash-strapped companies.

Amid a wave of corporate bankruptcies, officials hoped potential foreign investors would be heartened both by the new rules and the assurance of at least a postponement of threats of strikes by thousands of embittered workers.

The Finance Ministry, announcing the decision, said the opening of the short-term finance market would "further accelerate inflows of foreign capital" and thus "improve the nation's foreign-exchange situation."

In an effort to reassure foreign investors, the ministry said they could "freely withdraw their funds out of the country." Foreigners have often complained of bureaucratic measures that restrict their freedom both to invest and to withdraw their funds.

It said South Korea's foreign-exchange control law and banking regulations would be amended to accommodate the latest liberalization steps.

Foreign investors wishing to invest in the South Korean money market must follow the same procedures for bond investments, which include registration with the Securities Supervisory Board and the opening of a won-denominated account at a local foreign-exchange bank.

As part of the effort to attract foreign investment, the ministry also gave commercial banks authority to sell commercial paper. Merchant banks previously were the only institutions authorized to handle commercial paper, but the government closed 10 merchant banks last week and warned that still more may have to shut their doors.

CYBERSCAPE

Netscape: Surfing Through Rough Seas

By Steve Lohr
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Netscape Communications Corp. has suffered through a humbling month. Once the highest flier of the Internet, Netscape said in January that it would report a loss for 1997 of \$115.5 million and lay off 400 of its 3,200 workers.

The crowning indignity came last week, as it seemed that Netscape had moved from a turnaround situation to takeover bait — a speculative stock. On Wednesday, Netscape's stock rose because of rumors that Sun Microsystems Inc. might buy the company.

The next day, Netscape rose again on reports that the company was in talks with several industry rivals — Sun, Oracle Corp., International Business Machines Corp. and America Online Inc. — about selling all or part of itself. Netscape gained 35 percent last week, finishing at \$21.625 — far below its 52-week high of \$49.50 set July 16.

Netscape refused to comment publicly on the reports. But in an e-mail message to employees Thursday, James Barksdale, the company's chief executive, said, "These rumors are damaging to us and extremely distracting."

On Friday, Mr. Barksdale

again did not seem eager to auction off Netscape, people who attended a company meeting said. Speaking to more than 2,000 employees, he urged them to stay focused on their jobs. "We've defied the odds before, and we can do it again," he said.

Despite its recent losses, Netscape "has viable business opportunities without selling out," said David Readman, an analyst at NationsBanc Montgomery Securities Inc. Mr. Readman is not a Netscape enthusiast, having pulled his buy recommendation off the company more than a year ago, when the stock was trading at \$40.

But clearly, the company faces difficult transition, analysts say. Mary McCaffrey, an analyst at BT Alex. Brown, estimates that Netscape company will not return to profitability until the third quarter. She expects Netscape to lose \$3 billion this year on sales of \$573 million.

Netscape, which introduced the first commercial World Wide Web browser, is under intense pressure from Microsoft Corp. Netscape still has an estimated 60 percent share of the browser market, compared with about 35 percent for Microsoft. But Microsoft, which has long had a policy of giving away its Internet Explorer browser, is gaining fast.

Netscape was especially

hit in the fourth quarter, when its revenue from so-called client software, which includes its Navigator browser, dropped to \$12 million from \$52 million a year earlier.

The company's other businesses — advertising and electronic commerce on its popular Web site and sales of Internet software used on computer hubs, or servers, grew, but not enough to offset the drop in its client software sales.

To cope, Netscape announced two steps Jan. 22. It said it would match Microsoft by giving away its Navigator browser, and it said it would freely distribute the basic programming code for its popular Communicator suite of software products, including the browser. Both moves are intended to spread Netscape's technology and brand — attracting people and advertising dollars to its Web site and bringing in corporate customers for its server software.

What signs of life should prospective Netscape investors look for? Analysts

point to four: a stabilization or an upturn in Netscape's share of the browser market; declarations by PC makers or Internet service providers that they will use Navigator as their preferred browser; sales growth in the company's sales of server software to large corporations, and, of course, a return to profitability.

More than anything else, says Kathy Hale of Dataquest Inc., they should watch Netscape's core business of selling software to companies. That business is growing strongly, but Netscape needs to persuade many more corporations to choose its technology over that of rivals such as Microsoft.

Ms. Hale estimates that Netscape's software sales to corporations more than doubled last year, to \$776 million, but that figure included considerable revenue from software that it will now give away.

Internet address: cyberscape@iht.com

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AOL Beefs Up Content

On-Line Firm Set to Put Premium on Internet

By Rajiv Chandrasekaran
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — America Online Inc. is expected to integrate its Internet programming division back under its flagship on-line service, a move that indicates AOL wants to develop interactive content more with its own money than outside capital, sources familiar with the strategy change said.

AOL also will announce as early as Monday that Robert Pittman, president of the division that runs the on-line service, will become the company's chief operating officer and will oversee the content development operations, the sources said. Mr. Pittman, a former cable television and real estate executive who joined AOL in late 1996, has long been viewed as the company's second-in-command, after Steve Case, the chief executive.

In late 1996, a financially struggling AOL split itself up into three divisions: the on-line service, the content development division and the network access provider. The company sold the network access division, ANS Communications Inc., to WorldCom Inc. in a three-way deal with H&R Block Inc., the owner of the CompuServe Inc. on-line service, that netted AOL \$175 million in cash and the subscribers of CompuServe.

The content development division, called AOL Studios, was made into a separate unit to line up outside investors to fund its on-line programming. The division, which was intended to be self-supporting, creates interactive content that appears both on AOL's proprietary service and the broader World Wide Web.

Initial efforts to lure outside investors were not as successful as the company had hoped, analysts said. At the same time, AOL found itself flush with cash from the WorldCom deal and a recent \$300 million debt offering.

As the company focuses more on the on-line service, content development also has become more important. "AOL has moved very successfully from a connectivity-based business to a content and commerce-based business," said Jonathan Cohen, an analyst with UBS Securities Inc. "It's only natural that they invest more in content."

Puzzled Dollar Traders Wait for Tokyo

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — Is Japan going to convincingly postpone plans to cut its deficit and really stimulate an economic recovery?

Are U.S. interest rates headed lower because January's lackluster exports indicate a slowdown? Or is domestic demand, as shown by the increase in January employment, strong enough to keep U.S. growth at a robust level?

Is Western Europe more, or less, exposed than the United States to the feared economic headwinds stirred by the financial crisis in Asia?

Foreign-exchange dealers are looking eagerly for answers. But until they become evident, analysts predict choppy, nervous conditions in the currency markets, with the dollar trading in a narrow range. Whether this will be a move to greater strength or significant weakness is open to debate.

The first hurdle, analysts agree, is the Japanese government's supplementary spending package expected to be announced Feb. 20, on the eve of the winter meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized countries.

Dealers at the major banks report that trading has become unusually light since the late-January early-February selling that drove the dollar to recent lows of 1.7505 Deutsche marks and 122.78 yen.

The dollar ended last week at 1.8083 DM and 124.01 yen, and dealers figure that the least stable operators — speculators betting on a big dollar advance — have been shaken out. They say the market is now controlled by long-term investors who are content to hold dollars and, for the moment, see no reason to dump the currency.

"You need an event to turn the mood negative on the dollar," said one trader, wary that the late-month events might provide such an excuse.

A real change in Japan's fiscal policy could provide such a spark. Indeed, Jim O'Neill at Goldman, Sachs & Co. is convinced it is coming and sees the dollar trading in a weaker range of 110 to 120 yen.

But given Tokyo's long history of promising packages that fail to ignite domestic demand, there is wide skepticism that the government, which has staked so much on reducing its fiscal deficit, is about to radically alter direction. In addition, the Japanese econ-

omy has slowed so much that some Western analysts fear a supplemental spending plan may do nothing more than arrest the slowdown, rather than help the economy turn the corner.

While Tokyo is rife with speculation of a new minibudget to fuel a recovery, such a plan is not likely to emerge until April, after the actual budget has been approved.

Those who doubt forceful action is impending, such as Jesper Koll at J.P. Morgan & Co. in Tokyo, see the dollar more likely to rise toward 140 yen than to fall to 110 yen.

"Until the G-7 meeting is over," said Ravi Bulchandani at Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. in London, "market participants will worry that the Japanese will be successful in getting language included in the G-7 communiqué that suggests that it is unsafe to short the yen."

Meanwhile, the dollar has lost support against the Deutsche mark because the yield on one-year and two-year dollar paper has fallen below the rate of overnight money — signaling an anticipation of a decline in U.S. rates. At the same time, three-month German rates are indicating almost a half-point increase by the end of the year.

A Combination Ahead for Italy's Big Banks?

Bloomberg News

MILAN — Banca Commerciale Italiana SpA, Banca di Roma SpA and Credito Italiano SpA — three of Italy's largest banks — are considering a merger to create the nation's biggest bank, the newspaper La Repubblica reported over the weekend.

The leaders of the three banks or their holding companies discussed the project last week with Antonio Fazio, the central bank governor, the report said.

According to La Repubblica, Mediobanca's controlling shareholder syndicate will meet Wednesday. The group will discuss a possible sale of new stock to fund its portion of Assicurazioni Generali SpA's capital increase and may also consider the three-bank merger project, the paper said.

Mediobanca has close ties to Banca Commerciale and Credito Italiano through a network of cross-shareholdings.

A spokesman for Banca Commerciale declined to comment on the report. Executives at Credito and Banca Roma could not be reached for comment. Mediobanca never comments on the bank's activities.

Speculation of a merger between the three banks resurfaced in recent weeks as two other large Italian banks accelerated plans to merge.

On Friday, Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino SpA approved plans to pursue negotiations to merge with rival Istituto Mobiliare Italiano SpA, creating Italy's largest bank and its second-biggest investment bank.

Italy's banking industry in recent months has been rife with speculation about mergers and acquisitions to prepare for the single currency, or euro, in 1999. Bank executives say the single currency will eliminate many of the financial barriers between countries that have limited expansion of banks across borders and will herald heightened competition in Italy.

"The Italian banking system needs to have a few institutions with the critical mass that will allow them to compete with foreign banks when the single currency takes off after May," said Donato Loscalzo, a partner at the Italian investment bank Gallo & Co.

Uniting Banca Commerciale, Banca di Roma and Credito Italiano would dwarf the IMI-San Paolo combination.

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British pound	3.9975	1.28	2.84	1.414	—	—	26.0	1.625	—
Canadian dollar	3.665	6.88	—	—	—	—	26.0	3.10	24.7
French franc	1.685	—	—	0.284	0.1037	0.007	4.864	1.239	1.1857
German mark	1.655	—	—	9.918	2.911	1.284	6.892	2.389	2.6395
Japanese yen	129.83	20.01	94.76	1.234	2.32	8.82	1.97	4.61	16.118
Swiss franc	1.7713	2.6815	2.10	29.48	—	—	47.87	4.897	12.228
Other Dollar Values	—	1.6475	1.883	—	—	—	—	—	—
Argentine peso	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
British pound	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canadian dollar	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
French franc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
German mark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Japanese yen	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Swiss franc	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forward Rates	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30-day	1.6472	1.4247	1.6422	—	—	—	123.59	12.014	12.151
90-day	1.4306	1.2928	1.4291	—	—	—	12.19	1.4364	1.4213
Japanese yen	1.7904	1.4781	1.7842	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source: ING Bank (Amsterdam); Citic Investment Bank (Amsterdam); Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan); Citic Investment Bank (Tokyo); Citic Investment Bank (London).

CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Heavy New Supply of Bonds This Week Is Expected to Limit Price Gains

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

CHICAGO—The U.S. Treasury bond market ended last week on a positive note, but a heavy offering of supply, U.S. economic data and politics all will weigh into this week's price mix, analysts said.

The highlight last week was the January nonfarm payroll report, issued Friday, which featured a larger-than-expected

U.S. CREDIT MARKETS

increase of 358,000 jobs, Patrick Dimick of UBS Securities in New York said.

A closer look at the data, he said, showed that special factors such as construction employment may have overated the payroll gain, making the report less inflationary and thus less scary to the bond market than it at first seemed.

The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond finished the week at 5.92

percent, up from 5.81 percent a week earlier, despite falling Friday.

The Treasury will offer \$13 billion in three-year notes Tuesday, \$12 billion in 10-year notes Wednesday and \$10 billion in 29-year bonds Thursday—an expansion in supply that is expected to keep a lid on market gains, analysts said.

But the combination of maturing Treasury issues and coming coupon payments will give some investors a surplus of cash, which should help underpin demand for the new issues, said John Canavan of Stone & McCarthy Inc.

Kathleen Camilli, director of economic research at Tucker Anthony, said retail sales for January, due to be released Thursday, and the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank survey for January, due Tuesday, probably would indicate a weakening economy.

"This creates a positive environment

for Treasury refunding but as usual leaves dealers having to buy paper at reasonably expensive levels," she said.

The retail sales report will be key, Dimick said, "but first will come jockeying for positions" ahead of the auctions.

"Retail sales are going to be held down because of weak auto sales during the month," said Anthony Chan, chief economist at Banc One Investment Advisors. But he pointed out that chain-store sales for January, reported last week, were strong.

Political developments, both in Asia and in the White House, will continue to have an impact on the volatility of the market, Mr. Chan added.

Many of the top financial advisory firms have been urging investors to add to their corporate securities holdings. With a measure of stability returning

to Asian markets and economies—and with corporate profits still on track to rise this year, if not as much as in 1997—such firms as Lehman Brothers Inc., Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co. and Goldman, Sachs & Co. have been urging clients to increase their corporate bond holdings as a percentage of fixed-income investments.

Corporate bonds are offering more value than most other bonds because their prices have been reduced by a raft of new bonds and concern that Asia's problems would crimp corporate profits. By contrast, Treasury bonds have rallied so much in recent months that the 30-year bonds started this month with yields near a record low, which strategists said was making corporate bonds a better buy.

"The world of credit looks handsome moving into February," said Jack Malvey, chief bond strategist at Lehman

Brothers. High-yield bonds, the riskiest of corporate securities, have been among the best investment performers so far this year.

A basket of below-investment-grade, or junk, securities tracked by Merrill Lynch & Co. returned 1.5 percent through the end of last week, including price gains and interest. If that return continued unchanged, the bonds would post growth of more than 19 percent for the full year.

Investment-grade corporate bonds have not risen as much because higher-rated borrowers such as Intel, flooding the market with debt and causing differences in yield, or spreads, between these securities and Treasury bonds to widen. With sales subsiding a bit, these securities may be poised to recover.

"The relatively wide spreads we see

in the corporate market are unjustified," Marie Chandra of Goldman Sachs said.

The best bargains can be found among bonds with the lowest tier of investment-grade ratings, she said, or bonds carrying ratings in the range of BBB. These securities have suffered the most this year, Ms. Chandra said, with spreads over Treasury bonds widening as much as eight basis points, or 0.08 of a percentage point. But not all investors are heeding the investment firms' recommendations.

Dan Seitz of Advisers Capital Management said his company bought Treasury bonds Friday and had most of its fixed-income holdings in U.S. government debt. Advisers Capital is betting that problems in Asia will curb growth and keep pulling investors into the haven of the government bond market.

(Market News, Bloomberg)

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending Feb. 6. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

Rnk Name Cpn Maturity Price Yield

Austrian Schilling

228 Austria 6% 07/15/27 106.400 5.8700

British Pound

79 Annington 6.000/01/22/22 98.000 6.2600

159 Annington F 6% 01/10/23 16 7.6200

169 Fin. Biedl Haus 11.750/02/20/20 6.700 7.18

170 Flypact Centr 6% 02/04/08 99.10 6.45

193 Air Voley 6% 11/04/29 99.750 6.0000

194 EIB 6% 11/04/29 99.750 6.0000

237 ADBK 6.000/02/02/02 97.519 5.6200

247 Annington 6% 12/07/22 1814 7.0200

Canadian Dollar

192 Canada Tbill zero 07/09/98 97.936 5.0000

Danish Krone

5 Denmark 8 09/15/06 115.2072 6.5400

8 Denmark 7 11/15/07 111.4926 6.2800

34 Denmark 7 12/10/24 113.9189 6.1200

37 Denmark 7 11/15/00 111.40 6.0800

55 Denmark 6 11/15/00 103.7033 5.7900

70 Denmark 6 11/15/00 103.7033 5.7900

71 Denmark 8 02/15/03 114.1227 7.0100

72 Denmark 6 11/15/02 104.7688 5.7300

76 Denmark 7 12/15/04 104.7688 5.7300

84 Denmark 6 02/15/02 103.8500 5.8200

96 Denmark 6 02/15/02 101.8700 5.9900

97 Denmark 6 11/15/01 111.0080 7.2900

123 Denmark 6 02/15/02 99.9900 5.8100

124 Denmark 7 11/01/22 99.9900 5.8100

147 Denmark 6 10/01/26 96.9000 6.1900

187 Denmark 6 09/01/26 96.9000 6.1900

225 Denmark 6 09/01/26 96.9000 6.1900

233 Denmark 5 08/15/05 96.9700 5.0500

Deutsche Mark

1 Germany 6 07/04/07 106.5248 5.6300

2 Germany 5 01/04/08 101.3697 5.1800

4 Germany 4 12/17/99 100.5500 4.2200

6 Germany 6 02/15/02 106.4200 6.4400

7 Germany 6 01/15/00 104.8811 6.2100

10 Germany 4% 08/15/02 97.7262 4.3100

11 Germany 6% 07/04/27 111.7881 5.8100

16 Germany 6% 01/12/02 112.3371 7.1000

12 Germany 8 02/22/02 113.7458 7.0300

Japanese Yen

178 Exim Bk Japan 2% 07/28/05 104.7500 2.6900

180 World Bank 4% 05/28/03 108.5200 4.1600

230 Japan Dev Bk 6% 09/20/01 118.5021 5.4900

245 Exim Bk Japan 4% 10/01/03 113.2132 3.8600

South African Rand

175 Eskom zero 12/31/98 6.6750 13.8200

Spanish Peseta

121 Spain 7.000/02/28/02 111.5392 7.0800

Swedish Krona

95 Sweden 10% 05/05/00 110.8495 9.2500

100 Sweden 6 02/09/05 102.8437 5.8300

138 Sweden 10% 05/05/03 121.8925 8.4100

149 Sweden 5% 04/12/02 100.2938 5.4500

164 Sweden 10% 08/15/07 117.7381 6.8500

184 Sweden 11 01/21/99 105.6406 10.4700

U.S. Dollar

3 Brazil Cap 4% 04/15/14 91.4242 4.9200

27 Argentina par L 5% 03/21/03 75.8649 7.2500

30 Argentina 6% 02/28/05 86.9938 7.6900

34 Argentina 5% 07/19/27 94.6264 10.3200

41 Venezuela 6.7188/12/02/15 65.7001 10.3200

42 Brazil 10% 05/15/02 94.1556 10.7000

43 Mexico 6% 04/15/06 84.8281 7.8800

48 Brazil L 11% 01/30/17 113.5877 10.0200

49 Argentina 5% 02/28/02 89.4264 5.1600

57 Brazil FRN 6% 01/01/01 67.0119 10.2600

59 Venezuela 9% 05/15/27 99.2693 10.3600

60 Poland Inter 4 10/27/14 88.3898 4.3300

94 Brazil par ZI 5% 04/15/24 73.4063 7.1900

99 Ontario Inter 6% 01/01/24 100.1717 6.9500

104 Bulgaria FRN 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

111 Mexico par 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

113 Brazil S.L. FRN 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

118 Argentina FRN 5.6145/01/01/01 100.1680 5.6100

119 H. Heinz 5% 02/03/03 99.2606 5.7900

144 Argentina FRN 6% 01/01/22 99.9900 5.8100

145 Poland FRN 5% 01/15/03 98.6394 5.3200

171 Brazil S.L. FRN 6% 04/15/12 73.7175 8.9100

132 Mexico 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

134 Brazil S.L. FRN 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

136 Mexico 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

140 BRD 5% 02/02/01 99.9324 5.5000

142 Mexico D FRN 6% 12/31/19 82.1898 7.2300

Emerging Markets Are Back in Demand

As Developed Countries Cut Back on Issues, Investors Seek Alternatives

By Carl Gewirtz
International Herald Tribune

PARIS—A virtual stagnation in the volume of international bonds issued by top-rated developed countries, nearly all of which are working on reducing their deficits, is opening the way for emerging economies to tap the market at particularly favorable terms.

A good example is Portugal. Demand for its paper is so heavy that a 10-year bond issue planned for the start of this week was rushed to market last week. Although Moody's Investors Service Inc. rates Portugal's debt at only Aa3—three levels below top grade—the bonds were priced to match the level of Aaa-rated paper outstanding.

The issue, designed to form a jumbo denominated in euros when the common currency is created, was marketed in two major currencies of the European Union—1 billion Deutsche marks (\$553 million)—and 4 billion French francs (\$660 million)—and, for openness, 30 billion escudos (\$164 million). The escudo portion will be increased over time, with the aim to raise the total size of the issue to the equivalent of some 5 billion DM.

The terms on the 10-year bonds are identical, with a coupon of 5% percent, but the issue prices were slightly different to account for the spread between German and French government debt.

The DM portion was priced to yield 18 basis points, or 0.18 of a percentage point, over the government benchmark, which closed Friday at 5.09 percent. At the time, 10-year Aaa-rated German bank issues as well as Japan's Export-Import Bank 10-year issue were trading at 22 basis points over the benchmark rate.

The French portion was priced 16 basis points over the government benchmark, which ended Friday at 5.13 percent.

Belgium, which pioneered this multiple-currency structure, is expected to return to the market this week, selling 500 million DM and 1.2 billion French francs in addition to the 1.5 billion DM and 4 billion francs of 10-year bonds it offered in November. At that time, Belgium indicated it would be returning to the market to increase the size and establish an issue that would serve as its benchmark in the unified European bond market.

Meanwhile, with the financial crisis in East Asia appearing to have stabilized, investors are back in force looking for high-yielding paper, with government yields hovering just above record lows.

With Poland's just above record low export-credit agency last week sold \$600 million of 11-year notes backed by the cash flow on Polish debt owed to the agency. The securitized paper, issued in the name of Delphes, is essentially Polish risk—and, like Poland, it is rated Baa3 by Moody's, its lowest rating that

is still investment grade. Increased from the initially indicated \$400 million, the paper was offered at a yield of 225 basis points over comparably dated U.S. government notes with a coupon of 7% percent and ended the week trading at a spread of 210 basis points.

The companion eight-year issue of 1.25 billion French francs, increased from the initial target of 1 billion francs, was sold with a coupon of 6% percent for a yield of 175 basis points over French government paper and ended the week trading at a spread of 170 basis points.

Managers said two-thirds of the dollar issue was sold as a private placement in the United States and half of the French-franc issue was sold in France, with the rest sold mainly in Germany and Switzerland.

On the back of this success and a well-received DM issue from Argentina, bankers say the market is again fully open to non-Asian emerging-market borrowers. Argentina last week sold \$300 million of 30-year bonds in the United States after having been unable to sell 10-year bonds three weeks earlier. This week, Brazil is expected to issue five-year notes in European Currency Units, and Turkey is expected to sell \$500 million of five-year or seven-year notes.

Ukraine, which last week was rated B2 by Moody's, intends to issue \$500 million DM of three-year notes.

New International Bond Issues

Compiled by Paul Floren

Issuer	Amount (millions)	Mat.	Coup. %	Price	Price and week	Terms
Floating Rate Notes						
Avanti Credit Card Master Trust II Series	\$966	2001	0.04	99.8085	—	Over 1-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees not disclosed. (Salomon Smith Barney.)
Banesto Issuance	\$150	2003	0.10	99.935	—	Over 3-month Libor. Callable at par in 2001. Fees 0.20%. Denominations \$10,000. (Salomon Smith Barney.)
Bank of Queensland	\$100	2001	0.25	99.86	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. (Swiss Bank Corp.)
Bankinter	\$250	2003	0.10	99.955	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.175%. Denominations \$10,000. (Merrill Lynch.)
Ford Motor Credit	\$1,000	2003	1/8	99.76	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.20%. (Lehman Brothers)
Credit Card Two	ITL500,000	2003	libor	100	—	Interest will be 3-month Libor. Callable in 2003. Hereafter interest will be 0.40% over 3-month Libor. Fees 0.15%. (Caripaz.)
Morgan Stanley Dean Witter Discover	ITL250,000	2003	1/8	99.83	—	Over 3-month Libor. Noncallable. Fees 0.25%. (Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.)
Fixed-Coupons						
ABB Int'l Finance	\$150	2001	4 1/2	98.1875	97.10	Reaffirmed 97. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. Denominations \$97,000. (Commerzbank.)
ABM AMRO Arrendamento Americano	\$100	1999	8 3/4	99.95	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.50%. (ABM AMRO Home Govt.)
Ameritech Capital Funding Corp.	\$750	2008	5 3/4	101.22	99.60	Reaffirmed 99.62. Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (ABM-AMRO Home Govt.)
Delphes	\$600	2009	7 1/4	99.796	—	Noncallable. Fees 0.75%. Denominations \$100,000. (J.P. Morgan.)
Famille Moe	\$4,000	2008	5 1/4	99.659	99.50	Noncallable. Fees 0.15%. Denominations \$10,000. (Goldman Sachs.)
IBRD	\$2,000	2008	5 1/4	100.781	98.95	Reaffirmed 99.106. Noncallable. Fees 2%. (Goldman Sachs.)
International Finance	\$1,000	2003	5 1/4	99.1246	99.15	Noncallable. Fees 1 1/4%. (Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.)

Is Buffett's Splurge on Silver a Sign That Gold Will Start to Glitter Again?



By Mickey Meece
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Precious metals are suddenly looking more precious. With the news last week that Warren Buffett was quietly amassing a hoard of silver, driving its price to the highest level in nine years, investors began to see a treasure trove, rather than a junk heap, in long-neglected precious metals and the mutual funds that invest in them.

In fact, gold was already rallying a bit, climbing above \$300 an ounce recently after trading at \$278.15 on Jan. 12, although it ended the week just under \$300. Gold stocks also rose after the news of the activity by Mr. Buffett, one of America's most widely followed investors.

After last year, when the average gold fund tumbled 43 percent, according to Morningstar Inc., the Chicago-based fund-tracking company, it almost seemed that these funds had nowhere to go but up.

No fund in the sector — not even the once high-flying Midas — escaped the carnage. All the gold funds did poorly, from fund families such as Lexington Strategic Investments, U.S. Global In-

vestors, USAA and Morgan Stanley. Now, with Mr. Buffett accumulating silver — which, like gold, is a traditional inflation hedge — it is perhaps less surprising that some funds, such as Oppenheimer Gold and Special Minerals, have been raising their gold holdings.

Given the relatively steep decline in gold stocks last year, we believe that the risk-reward is now better for gold stocks

INVESTING

than other minerals," Oppenheimer said in its January shareholder report. The company has changed its allocation to 75 percent gold and 25 percent other minerals, from 65 percent gold and 35 percent others.

"The gold holdings will be relatively stable because of our emphasizing senior producers with low cash costs and highly liquid shares," the report said.

Even more aggressively, Sogen Gold has nearly 98 percent of its holdings in gold stocks, seemingly unfazed by a slide in net assets to \$3.14 million at the end of 1997, from \$55.8 million a year earlier. In such a terrible year, it was the best performer among strictly gold

funds, falling 30 percent.

The fund's manager, Jean-Marie Eveillard, said, "Our attitude has been the same one we took four years ago," namely that the downside risk was modest because "the price had already declined considerably from its peak, so it's a long-depressed asset."

An investment of \$10,000 made when Sogen Gold opened in September 1993 would have been worth \$8,124 at the end of last year, but the value of the same investment in a typical precious-metals fund would have fallen to \$6,422, according to Morningstar.

Equally stubborn in its strategy is Van Eck Associates, which has maintained a 90 percent exposure to gold in its two gold funds. Last year, Van Eck International Investors Gold A was down 36 percent, while Van Eck Gold/Reserves A dropped 39.3 percent.

Harry Bingham, a manager of institutional gold portfolios at Van Eck, pointed out that gold typically ran contrary to the market, especially during major moves or changes. "There's been a bull market for the last 15 years, and gold has been in a bear market with some great rallies in between," he said.

Mr. Eveillard agreed that "everything is cyclical — bear markets and bull markets, so this one's not going to last." He also said that from a commodity point of view, there lately had been an excess of demand over supply of 500 to 1,000 tons a year, as demand for jewelry has exceeded production from mines.

Still, Mr. Eveillard said, "obviously, as long as the feeling prevails that everything is right with the world, the opportunity for gold prices to move up is modest." He added that he was prepared to ask shareholders to vote on abandoning the sector entirely at the end of the year if prices did not move up.

Across the fund industry, however, many investors were already abandoning the sector last year. Assets of gold and natural-resources funds totaled \$4.98 billion at year-end, according to AMG Data Services, a fund-tracking firm based in Arcata, California, down 37 percent from the beginning of the year.

"The only sector that has had a larger percentage decline in assets base is the Asian emerging market," Robert Adler, president of the firm, said.

Analysts cited two reasons for gold's slide last year: the near absence of inflation and the threat of central bank sales of gold reserves, which would overwhelm the market and cause prices to fall further.

Now, the pendulum could swing. "There should be strong support for the price of gold," said Mark Wright, a senior analyst at Morningstar. "At current levels, gold is selling cheaper than it costs to mine it. At some point, if gold stays at this level, companies will have to stop mining, and the prices will go up."

Doug Cohen, an analyst with Morgan Stanley, Dean Witter, Discover & Co., said: "With gold rallying a bit, the panic selling from last year has subsided. Mutual-fund redemptions seem to have bottomed out. Anyone looking to get into gold hasn't missed the opportunity yet. Most people are very cautious. On the whole, there's probably more upside reward than downside risk in the gold price at \$300 per ounce."

Five analysts would advise investors to join a gold rush. As Mr. Eveillard said, "It's a very opaque market with many participants."

Still, many favor modest holdings, particularly for investors looking for insurance against inflation, market swings or political instability. Mr. Wright of Morningstar, like many other advisers, recommends keeping a small proportion of a portfolio, from 2 percent to 5 percent, in gold.

"The bottom line is again diversification," Mr. Wright said. Even a 2 percent stake in precious-metal stocks, he said, should "reduce the volatility of one's entire portfolio enough to compensate" should the overall market go down.

Diversification's Downside: 'Concentrated' Funds Gain

By Kathleen Day
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Diversification is a mantra in the investment community, but lately some mutual-fund investors are buying into the idea that smaller is better. They are turning to funds that concentrate their holdings in only 20 to 30 stocks.

The strategy behind these concentrated funds — also known as focused, select or "best idea" funds — is straightforward: Investors wanting to outperform the market should let smart stock-pickers focus on their best investment ideas rather than on scores of companies they don't have time to know well.

"How many good ideas can a portfolio manager have, realistically?" said John Markese, president of the American Association of Individual Investors, a nonprofit educational group. "Probably about 20 to 25."

Hold more stocks than that, said Bill Nygren, portfolio manager of the Oakmark Select fund, "and you're diluting your favorite ideas."

"You need some diversification to hedge your bets," Mr. Nygren said.

"But if you want to give money to people who have been successful stock-pickers, I believe it makes sense to allow that person to concentrate in the stocks they feel most strongly about."

Oakmark Select, which holds about 19 stocks, was founded Nov. 1, 1996, so it has a far shorter market record than the three years required before Morningstar Inc., the fund-research company, will evaluate it.

In 1997, however, Oakmark Select returned 55 percent, and since its in-

ception, it has gained 75 percent, well above the average mutual fund return or that of the typical mutual fund. The fund has assets of \$982 million, up from \$514 million in September.

Concentration funds are not a new idea, mutual-fund specialists said.

"It's taking an idea that's always been out there and beefing it up as a marketing tool," said Josh Carlson, analyst for Morningstar, an Internet publication for mutual-fund investors. He estimated that in the past three to five years, 15 to 20 funds were created that specifically advertise the concentration strategy to investors.

William Dougherty, president of Canon Bloch Corp., a retirement plan and pension consulting firm, said he defined a concentration fund as one that

had 80 percent to 90 percent of its assets in fewer than 50 stocks, usually 25 to 35. Mr. Carlson said the category also included funds that had 40 percent of their assets invested in their top 10 stocks.

Adding more stocks to the mix does not necessarily add significant diversification, fund managers and finance

Corp. and J. P. Morgan & Co. About 25 percent of its holdings are in financial-services companies, and 22 percent are in nondurable consumer-oriented areas such as health care, Mr. Eby said.

Mr. Eby said focusing on a smaller range of stocks required the fund managers to know "a significant amount" about a company or a business. He said Torrey looked for undervalued companies that had the potential to post yearly returns of 15 percent.

The strategy requires investors to have a long-term outlook — at least five years, but preferably 10 years or longer, he said. The fund has had an average return of 38.59 percent a year for the past three years.

Mr. Nygren at Oakmark Select has a similar philosophy: He looks for companies that he considers undervalued and likely to grow. He also likes managers who hold a large amount of stock or stock options in their companies.

Among the fund's holdings are Lockheed Martin Corp., Permian International Inc., Union Texas Petroleum Holdings Inc., Amgen Inc. and Polaroid Corp. The fund's largest concentration of stock is in consumer goods and services, where it has put 13 percent of its assets. Its next largest concentration is in building materials and construction, at 10 percent.

Report in Japan Cites Central Bank

Agence France-Press

TOKYO — Officials of Japan's central bank have been implicated in a widening bribery scandal that has enmeshed the Finance Ministry, according to a weekend newspaper report.

Tokyo prosecutors have asked commercial banks to report on benefits given to two officials at the Bank of Japan, the daily Mainichi Shimbun reported Saturday, quoting banking sources.

The two officials are suspected of having received 10 million yen (\$80,000) each in benefits such as restaurant meals and golf games over two to three years beginning in 1993, the unidentified sources were quoted as saying.

Banks customarily play host to central bank officials under the pretext of "exchanging views on economic situations and prospects," the daily said.

Another private bank official said, "Some senior officials at the Bank of Japan were arrogant and frequently demanded entertainment."

A spokesman at the Bank of Japan was quoted as saying the central bank was drawing up "new codes of service."

SHORT COVER

Challenge to Euro Moves Ahead

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — A bid by German academics to derail the launch of the European single currency gained ground Sunday as the country's highest court looked set to admit a legal challenge and 155 professors called for the euro to be delayed.

One of four academics making a legal bid to stop Bonn from joining the single currency said Sunday the Federal Constitutional Court was preparing to admit the case, a move he said might hold up the euro's scheduled Jan. 1 debut.

Karl Albrecht Schachtschneider, a law professor, said the court had decided to ask Germany's government, Parliament, states and other bodies to respond to issues raised by the case.

The academics' petition, submitted to the court last month, argues that monetary union would violate basic rights of Germans by forcing them to swap the Deutsche mark for a weaker currency. They say the court should prevent Bonn from joining European monetary union because some of the countries that are due to be included in it do not meet the economic targets set by the Maastricht treaty designed to ensure the euro's stability.

Separately, 155 German and Austrian economics professors, led by Renate Ohr of Hohenheim University and Manfred Neumann of Bonn, said they would publish a manifesto in newspapers Monday calling for a delay in the single currency on the grounds that economic conditions were not right.

IMF Chief Advises Fiscal Control

CARACAS (Bloomberg) — Finance ministers and central bankers from the developing world should adhere to sound fiscal principles and provide more open and accurate financial data, the International Monetary Fund's managing director, Michel Camdessus, has said.

Mr. Camdessus warned delegates to the ministerial meeting of the Group of 24, a developing countries' organization, that Asia's problems were not unique to that region and could spread if policymakers did not learn.

"These are times of crisis," Mr. Camdessus said Saturday, "and it is our task to prevent this crisis from becoming a catastrophe that affects the whole world."

Separately, the IMF expects to sign a technical-assistance

program with Venezuela within weeks, continuing its support of the government's market-oriented policies begun two years ago. Venezuela's previous credit agreement — to borrow as much as \$1.4 billion — expired in July.

China Seeks to Speed Investment

BEIJING (AFP) — The State Planning Commission called Sunday for an acceleration in fixed-asset investment to offset a drop in exports caused by the Asian financial crisis.

"China needs to accelerate the growth of investment in 1998 to sustain its economic development," Zhang Hanyu, director of the Investment Institute, told the China Daily.

"Fixed-asset investment must rise at least 12 percent in 1998 if China is to achieve an annual growth rate of 8 percent in its gross domestic product over the next three years," he said.

Beijing Sees Narrower U.S. Surplus

BEIJING (AFP) — China predicted a significant drop Sunday in its trade surplus with the United States, citing a fall in its exports caused by the Asian financial crisis.

"Chinese exports to the United States will slow this year, affected by the nosedive of Southeast Asian currencies that has sharpened the competitiveness of their exports," the China Daily quoted a report from the General Administration of Customs as saying.

It said Chinese imports from America would "increase considerably" because Washington had "somewhat eased" its export controls on nuclear technology.

According to Beijing's statistics, China's trade surplus with the United States in 1997 reached \$16.39 billion in a total two-way trade of \$48.99 billion.

Diageo Rejects Selling Burger King

LONDON (Reuters) — Diageo PLC, the food and beverage giant formed by the merger of Guinness PLC and Grand Metropolitan PLC, denied a newspaper's report Sunday that it might put its Burger King fast-food chain up for sale this year.

A spokesman for the group dismissed the report in The Sunday Times as totally without foundation.

"We have no plans to sell Burger King," he said.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Labyrinth
3 Murders, mob-style
8 Numbers on baseball cards
14 Brothers of '40-'50's music
15 Pink, as a steak
16 Sign in an apartment window
17 Head honcho
19 Think out loud
20 Michaelmas daisy
21 Prefix with metric

22 Like most sumo wrestlers
23 Kind of preview
25 Carpenter's machine
26 Droop
28 Roadhouse
30 Nuisance
31 More smooth
33 Medieval weapons
37 Lima's land
38 Relatives of the English horn
40 Pharaohs' river
41 Shivered
43 Persians, today

45 Slippery
46 Mir Bist Du Schoen (1938 hit)
47 Bombast
48 Gets the 7-10 split
51 Sheriff's symbol
53 Gypsy's deck
54 Have title to
55 Beginning
58 "Don't tell —"
60 Head honcho
62 "What — to do?"
63 Pharaohs' river
64 Shivered
65 Persians, today

7 Search, as for weapons
8 Kind of fly
9 Informer
10 Head honcho
11 Nominal
12 Upright
13 One of the cattle in a cattle drive
14 Ador Kovacs
24 Signs up
25 Shaky
26 Mo, when Libra starts
27 Swear
28 Richard of "Primal Fear"
30 "Rue Morgue" writer
32 Head honcho
33 Pee container
34 Ped (traffic caution)
35 Director Kazan
36 Meeting: Abbr.
37 Old Turkish poot-bah
38 June bugs, e.g.
39 Severity
40 Closed
41 Neighbor of Yemen
42 Shoe bottom
43 Jane Austen novel
44 Hammer or sickle
45 Toronto's prov.

DOWN
1 Doll's cry
2 Writer Kingsley
3 Placidity
4 Adia's 1956 running mate
5 Bobby of the Bruins
6 One-named 50's-60's teen idol

46 Folk music instruments
47 Conservative
48 Out of style
49 With a View
51 Master, in Swahili

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 6
MAG I PANA SPREE
USE CATES GREED
SHESALPSCHELLES
BUNICE OHAW
ORACULA CASHWE
DYRECECHORE
ETUDE OENO ONUS
JONES MAD INEPT
ERIN DITE NESTS
CATTLECHANK
THESIS RALLIES
TOGA VIENNA
FROMTOSHINGNA
AION STUNG EEC
NAOMI HANGS RLS

THE INTERMARKET

GENERAL

THE INTERMARKET
Continues
on Page 20

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Figures as of close trading Friday, Feb. 6

[illegible]

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Friday, Feb. 6

(Continued)

Stocks	Div	Yld	100s	High	Low	Chg	Chg
Alcoa	1.25	4.8	28.12	28.12	28.12	28.12	28.12
Alcoa	1.25	4.8	28.12	28.12	28.12	28.12	28.12
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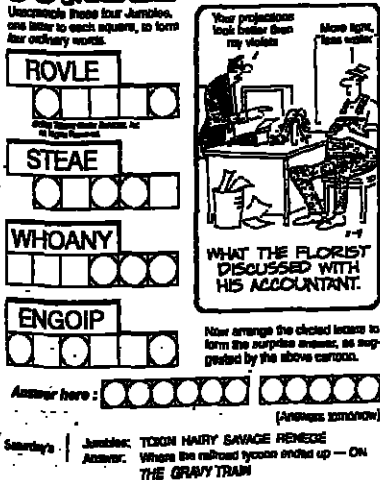
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WORLD ROUNDUP



Lindsay Davenport, who won the final Sunday in Tokyo.

Hingis Falls

TENNIS Lindsay Davenport of the United States, ranked No. 2 in the world, beat top-ranked Martina Hingis of Switzerland, 6-3, 6-3, Sunday in the Toray Pan Pacific Open final in Tokyo.

Davenport served well and attacked on Hingis's second serve, breaking twice in the first set and again at the start of the second set.

Hingis, who recently won the Australian Open, then held her own serve for 1-3 and broke at love for 2-3 in the second set. But Davenport broke back for 4-2 and held her serve for 5-2.

Thomas Enqvist retained his Marseille Open title, overpowering top seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov, 6-4, 6-1, in the final on Sunday.

Enqvist, 23, was never troubled by the former French Open champion from Russia.

Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia won the Croatian Indoor title for the third straight year when he beat Greg Rusedski, 7-6 (7-3), 7-6 (7-5), Sunday in the final in Split.

"This is something unbelievable," the Croat said after the match. "There was a bomb ticking in my head for seven days from the pressure to win. So I'm extremely happy to have won this difficult match."

Ivanisevic also beat Rusedski in the final last year. (AP)

Hornets' Mason Arrested

BASKETBALL Anthony Mason of the Charlotte Hornets was arrested in New York on Saturday on two counts of third-degree rape of two teenage girls. His lawyer, Frank Rothman, insisted he was innocent. "There will be scientific evidence that will vindicate Anthony," Rothman said. "He's a target for people like this."

Mason, 31, and a friend, William Duggins, 24, were each charged with two counts of statutory rape in the alleged attack on two girls, 14 and 15, on Friday night, the prosecutor's office said.

Mason and his friend met the sisters at a charity basketball game at York College in the Queens section of New York, the office said.

One New York tabloid reported in its Sunday editions that the alleged attack took place in a limousine after the game. The girls told an older sister about the alleged attack, the paper said. (AP)

Germany Drops Boycott

SWIMMING The German Swimming Federation said Sunday that it had dropped its plan to boycott a World Cup swim meet in Beijing. The move had been intended as a protest against doping by Chinese swimmers.

"We have contractual obligations to appear," said Ruediger Tretow, the federation president. The World Cup event will take place in Beijing on Feb. 25 and 26. (Reuters)

Ambrose Blasts England

CRICKET Curtly Ambrose, the West Indies fast bowler, took five English wickets for 16 runs Sunday on the fourth day of the first test in Trinidad.

England, which started on 219 runs for four wickets in its second innings, was all out for 258. The West Indies, which needed 282 in its second innings to win, reached 104 for two by tea. (Reuters)

United Ties Bolton, As Challengers Fall

Arsenal Beats 2d-Place Chelsea; Blackburn and Liverpool Also Lose

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Manchester United was held to a 1-1 tie at home by struggling Bolton but still increased its lead on the three teams behind it in the English Premier League. They all lost.

United trailed Saturday after a goal from Bolton's Bob Taylor in the 60th minute and seemed to be heading for its third consecutive league defeat until Andy Cole evened the score five minutes from the end of the game.

On Sunday, Stephen Hughes scored twice in the first half as Arsenal, which is fifth in the league, beat second-place Chelsea, its London rival, 2-0. Hughes, a 21-year-old midfielder scored on a 20-meter drive after four minutes and headed the second goal in from close

EUROPEAN SOCCER

range in the 42d minute as Arsenal beat Chelsea for the third time this season.

Blackburn, in third place, lost 3-0 at home to Tottenham, which started the day in 18th place. Fourth-placed Liverpool lost, 3-2, to visiting Southampton.

ITALY Roberto Baggio set up defender Michele Paramatti's second-half strike Sunday as Bologna upset Inter Milan, 1-0.

Inter Milan lost its second straight home game and the Brazilian striker Ronaldo, twice FIFA's world player of the year, again failed to score.

"We played what I think was our ugliest game this year," Inter Milan's coach, Luigi Simoni, said.

Inter fell four points behind Juventus, the league leader, which beat Roma, 3-1. Zinedine Zidane, Edgar Davids and Alessandro Del Piero scored for the defending champion.

Oliver Bierhoff, who leads the league with 16 goals, and Paolo Poggi each scored twice as Udinese, which is in third place, routed Lecce, 6-0.

In Milan, Baggio sent a precise back-pass to Paramatti, who sent a low shot through goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca's legs for the winner in the 56th minute. Baggio, Italy's star at the 1994 World Cup, was starting his second game in a row after a dispute with his coach, Renzo Ulivieri, over

playing time. Bologna protected that lead despite playing with 10 men for the last 17 minutes after the veteran defender Massimo Tarantino was expelled.

In Turin, Roma also finished with 10 men after defender Fabio Petrucci received a red card for a foul on Del Piero. **SPAIN** Barcelona, the Spanish league leader, survived late pressure to earn a 1-1 draw at Tenerife on Sunday. The Brazilian midfielder Rivaldo blasted his 14th goal of the season to put Barcelona ahead just before halftime.

But the second half was barely two minutes old when Tenerife's Slavisa Jokanovic scored.

Sporting Gijon ended the worst losing streak in the Spanish first-division's history Sunday by beating its local rival Racing Santander, 2-1, its first victory in 24 games.

On Saturday, Real Sociedad scored a late goal to draw, 1-1, with its Basque rival Athletic Bilbao.

Javi Gracia scored after Darko Kovacevic had knocked Athletic's goalkeeper, Imanol Etxebarria, to the ground. The 1-1 draw lifted Real into second place. Athletic remained fourth.

FRANCE Auxerre, Nantes and Rennes of the first division were all knocked out of the French Cup by teams from the lower divisions.

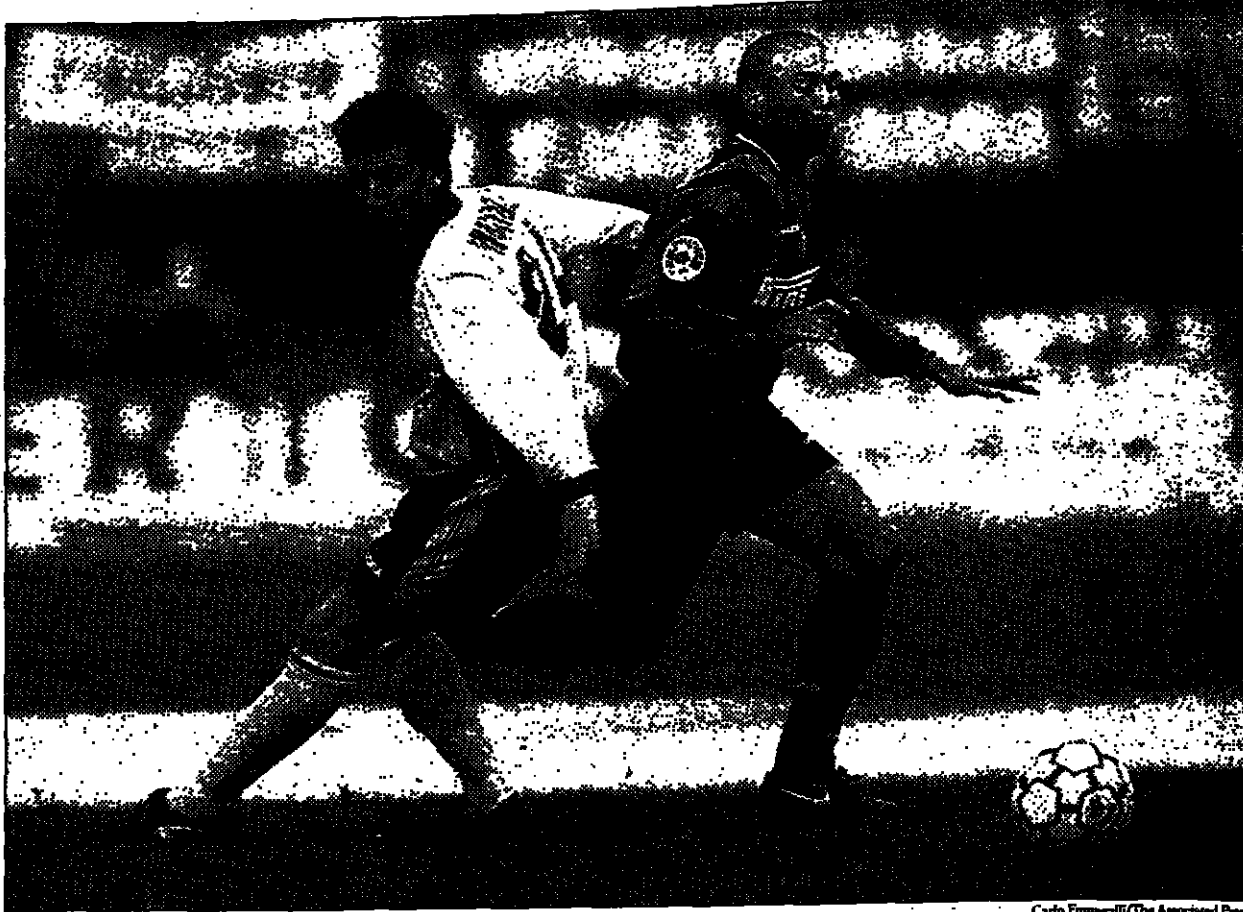
Rennes was upset by third-division Istres, while Auxerre lost, 2-1, after the overtime with second-division Mulhouse.

Nantes fell, 1-0, to the second-division struggler Caen. Midfielder Rafael Guerrero scored with 14 minutes left in the game.

The first-division leader, Olympique Marseille, labored to 1-0 away victory over fourth-division Boulogne.

Paris Saint-Germain, which has lost its last three league games, won 1-0 at Lorient, the second-division leader.

SCOTLAND Jose Quiroga scored in the final minute to give Hearts a 1-1 home tie Sunday against Celtic and left both clubs even with the Glasgow Rangers at the top of the premier division. Jackie McNamara scored in the 40th minute, but Celtic missed several chances to increase its lead. Rangers tied at home Saturday



Inter Milan's Ronaldo, right, streaking past Bologna defenseman Amedeo Mangone with the ball on Sunday.

against Dunfermline.

Quitongo, a tiny winger from Angola, came on as a substitute in the 64th minute and scored from eight yards after his first effort was blocked.

NETHERLANDS The Dutch league resumed after its winter break Sunday and Ajax Amsterdam continued its victory streak from last year, trouncing RKC Waalwijk, 5-1. Michael Landrup scored

three goals for Ajax.

Luc Nilis scored from close range in the dying seconds as PSV Eindhoven, in second place, beat De Graafschap, 2-1.

GERMANY Bayern Munich beat Hansa Rostock, 2-0, Saturday, to remain second in the Bundesliga. The victory kept Bayern within two points of Kaiserslautern, which beat VfL Bochum, 3-0, on Friday night.

Alexander Zickler put Bayern ahead in the 16th minute and Michael Tarnat added the second goal with a free kick just two minutes later.

Bayern Leverkusen moved into third with a 4-1 victory over Werder Bremen, but is nine points behind Bayern.

Borussia Dortmund, the reigning European champion beat VfB Stuttgart, 3-1.

South Africa-Angola Match Is Even All Around

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BOBO DILOUASSO, Burkina Faso — The dismissal of two players brought a lively end to an otherwise dull match Sunday as South Africa, the defending champion, tied Angola, 0-0, in its first match in Group C of the African Nations' Cup.

The Angolan defender Bodinho was ejected for a foul away from the ball, and John Moeti, a South African midfielder, was sent off for retaliation. Both will be suspended for the next game of the tournament.

South Africa's striker Benedict McCarthy might have been ejected after

he lashed out at Aurelio following a tackle, but McCarthy feigned injury and a substitution was made before any action by the referee.

In the second game at Bobo Dioulasso, Joel Tshie scored twice, and Lassina Diabate scored in the 83d minute as Ivory Coast beat Namibia, 4-1.

On Saturday in Ougadougou, Cameroon beat its host, Burkina Faso, in the inaugural game of the competition, 1-0. Alphonse Tchami scored for Cameroon in the first half. Burkina, which qualified as host, fought back after halftime but failed to score.

GOLD CUP Preki Radosavljevic's 24-yard blast in the 78th minute gave the United States a 2-1 victory over Costa Rica and a place in the semifinals of the Concacaf Gold Cup.

America needed to win the Group 3 game to advance to the semifinals in Los Angeles. Mexico also gained a final-four spot by beating Honduras, 2-0, on a pair of goals by Cuauhtemoc Blanco in the second game of a doubleheader in Oakland.

The Gold Cup is the championship of the soccer federations of North and Central America and the Caribbean. Brazil is competing as a guest.

The New Rugby: France Throws Rival for Loop

Bob Donahue
International Herald Tribune

France put a good new team in its big new stadium. The effect was amazing.

So good a team, in fact, that England's coach, Clive Woodward, was heard to say: "I admired the way the French played, and that is what we have to emulate."

That young France would give England a 24-17 rugby lesson was probably expected by absolutely nobody.

This, of course, was part of England's problem — just as overconfidence was part of New Zealand's problem in

VANTAGE POINT

November when Woodward's men surprised themselves by holding the world-leading All Blacks to a draw.

Changed rules of play, higher standards of athleticism at the start of rugby's professional era, and money-minded keenness to please television audiences and sponsors add up to a new ball game. The Southern Hemisphere powers play it better. The Northern Hemisphere has to learn it, or abandon hope of getting far at the four-yearly World Cup next year.

So it was that the number of passes in the big Paris match on Saturday surely set a record in an England-France series dating back to 1906. Throwing the ball around — you do that at practice sometimes, and in pickup games always. Until recently, you didn't do it in test matches, at least not before you were well ahead. You played safe. Who says there's no such thing as progress?

Ireland tried it, too, on Saturday in Dublin, only to find that they don't have the talent required. The Scots, who won



French players, left, winning a lineout from England's Lawrence Dallaglio.

17-16, prefer to lay the ball on the ground for the next arriving forward to scoop up. They will expect a harder time when France plays in Edinburgh on Feb. 21.

Now that the game has moved up a gear, the sad signs are that Scotland and Ireland no longer have what it takes. Before long we could see Europe's old Five Nations tournament die and rise again as an annual fry among Australia, England, France, New Zealand and South Africa.

Meanwhile, a paradox of the fancy new game is that defense is the key. This was what the French learned in heavy defeat by South Africa in November. Against England they were ferocious.

Pressure defense steals possession and makes space. If your halfbacks are clever, the space is exploited. Philippe Carboneau and Thomas Castaigne played this chess better than any pair of French halves in recent memory.

France scored two tries instead of the six they could have. Put this down to English defending — by Neil Back and Lawrence Dallaglio in particular — but also to hesitant French confidence and lack of test-match experience as a unit.

And give the last word to Brough Scott, writing in *The Sunday Telegraph*: "If the French are a team rebuilding, heaven help us when they've got all the parts in place."

France Finds the Old Flair And Beats England, 24-17

Reuters

LONDON — The two Five Nations "titles" may have been decided in Saturday's opening games as the reigning champions France discovered their old flair to beat England 24-17, and Ireland went down 17-16 at home to Scotland, making it likely that the Irish will keep a firm grip on the wooden spoon for the last-place team.

The showdown in the new Stade de France was billed as a likely championship decider, and despite England's having drawn first blood with a Paul Grayson penalty, the French were consistently the better team.

Wings Philippe Bernat-Salles and Christophe Dominici scored excellent tries in the first 20 minutes, with center Christophe Lamaison converting the first to leave England flailing.

The French, routed 52-10 by South Africa in their last international match, were sharper than England and more prepared to run the ball. They touched down on two additional occasions but the tries were disallowed because of forward passes.

England came back in the second half, and after Neil Back was shoved over by his forwards for a try, Grayson twice put them within four points.

But another Lamaison penalty and drop goals from flyhalf Thomas Castaigne and fullback Jean-Luc Sadourny ensured a fourth successive victory over the English.

"The score flatters us. A draw would have been a travesty," said England's coach, Clive Woodward.

"I am still cautious," said Jean-Claude Skrela, the French coach. "We

had a mission — we didn't have the right to lose and we didn't."

At the Lansdowne Road stadium in Dublin, there was no denying the spirit on display — but unfortunately there was very little else.

Ireland and Scotland were comfortably the worst in the championship last year and seem certain to retain that dubious honor.

Scotland did put together a well-worked try, nicely finished by center Alan Tait to earn an 11-10 halftime lead, but there was little else on show to worry the rest of the competition.

Scotland's narrow victory came courtesy of the foot of Craig Chalmers, who took over the kicking after Rowan Shepherd had missed four of six attempts. Chalmers calmly landed two penalties.

Ireland led, 16-11, 15 minutes into the second half thanks to a fortunate penalty try and goals by flyhalf David Humphreys. But poor handling and tactical naivete let them down.

Scotland had lost 10 of their last 12 matches, including a 25-21 defeat by Italy last month.

In a foretaste of the "Six Nations" tournament of the future, scheduled to begin in two years, Wales played Italy in Llanelli and squeezed to a 23-20 victory.

Italy, which had recently beaten France, Ireland and Scotland, failed to sparkle.

A dull first half was a tale of penalties: Neil Jenkins landing three for the Welsh, and Diego Dominguez one for Italy.

There were four tries in the second half. Gareth Thomas, the Welsh winger, scored a brilliant solo try, and Cristian Stoica and Andrea Sgortan scored in injury time for the visitors.

Norman Wins His Own Event

The Associated Press

SYDNEY, Australia — Greg Norman finally won his own event when he outlasted Jose Maria Olazabal of Spain by two strokes to win the \$680,000 Greg Norman International on Sunday.

Norman started the day one shot behind the 1994 U.S. Masters champion. The pair duelled through the first 11 holes, trading the lead until Norman went ahead for good with a birdie at the 367-meter, par-4 12th hole.

Ernie Els of South Africa won his third South African Open Championship on Sunday by shooting a final round of 69 for a 72-hole total of 273, beating fellow countryman David Frost by three strokes. Frost shot a 71.



Greg Norman driving to victory Sunday.

The final day of the \$766,000 championship was a two-man competition.

Patrick Sjolund of Sweden was third, four strokes back.

What Color Is America's Cup? How About Green

By Barbara Lloyd
New York Times Service

NEWPORT, Rhode Island — When a \$250,000 entry fee, in the form of a letter of credit, came due on Jan. 31 for challengers to the America's Cup, one of the European yachting teams took the unnecessary step of hand-delivering a check for the full amount.

The money was delivered by a messenger for the yachting syndicate to a bank in Nassau, Bahamas. The team phoned the America's Cup challengers' lawyer, who had an office in Nassau, asking him to pick up its courier at the airport.

"We didn't do that," Dyer Jones, president of the America's Cup Challenge Association, said during an interview at his office here. "With the amount of money you have to pay lawyers these days, we figured a cab would be much cheaper."

A letter of credit from one of the test teams

came up short by \$16 — an amount that the association's bank had taken out as a processing fee. "We wrote a check for the \$16," Jones said wryly. "Come on, look at what they put up."

Such is the high-stakes world of America's Cup yacht racing. And it is higher than ever before in the trophy's 147-year history. The sheer magnitude comes from having a record 16 international yacht clubs pay up to challenge New Zealand for the America's Cup.

Syndicates from 10 countries, of which the United States is fielding six teams, will tap corporate cooperation worldwide. And with budgets expected from \$15 million to \$30 million each, it won't come cheaply.

"I expected to see somewhere in the neighborhood of 10 to 12 challengers," Jones said about the 16 paying groups — of 18 that had showed initial interest. "A \$250,000 bond is a lot of money. In the grand scheme of things, you'd have to be

pretty confident about how you're going to fund your camp to risk that much."

It was a deep plunge for any of the groups, each of whom had paid \$100,000 to \$200,000 as a preliminary entry fee. If any team fails to show up at the start line for the challengers' trial races, scheduled to begin in late October 1999, the syndicate will forfeit its \$250,000. Those who compete won't have to make good on their letters of credit.

The next step for challengers is a meeting this week in Milan. Jones said he expected all 16 teams to show up with representatives. Many of the issues are procedural, but some are apt to be contentious.

Some challengers are already dissatisfied, contending that the New York Yacht Club exerts too much control over them. Indeed, New Zealand handpicked the New York club to represent challengers when the Kiwis' Black Magic team won the America's Cup three years ago.

SPORTS

No. 7 UConn Bottles Up Stanford to Win, 76-56

The Associated Press
Richard Hamilton scored 24 points as No. 7 Connecticut held visiting Stanford to win, 76-56.

It was No. 9 Stanford's lowest point total of the season and its third loss in four games.

The victory was the fifth straight for the Huskies (21-3) who led by 12 points

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

at halftime and by 25 before Stanford (19-3) scored the final five points of the game.

Connecticut, always tough defensively, held Stanford well under its average of 81.6 points per game.

Arthur Lee led the Cardinal with 17 points.

No. 4 Arizona 83, Washington State 61 In Tucson, Arizona, Michael Dickerson scored 14 of his 19 points in the second half as the Wildcats beat Washington State. Miles Simon added 19 points for Arizona, who extended its winning streak to 14 games and won its 26th straight over the Cougars — the longest streak in a Pac-10 series. Carlos Daniel had 14 points and 14 rebounds for Washington State.

No. 6 UCLA 84, Oregon State 75 Toby Bailey scored 21 points and Kris Johnson added 20 as UCLA made up for a poor shooting performance with strong rebounding to beat Oregon State in Corvallis, Oregon. Corey Benjamin scored 22 of his 34 points in the second half for Oregon State, but was forced to sit out the last 6:36 of the first half with foul trouble.

No. 10 Purdue 107, Ohio State 75 Brad Miller scored 22 points and Purdue hit a conference-record 16 3-pointers to hand Ohio State its worst loss ever at home. Chad Austin added 19 points and Jaraan Cornell 17 for Purdue. Jon Sanderson scored 24 points for Ohio State.

No. 11 Princeton 76, Harvard 48 In Boston, Gabe Lewulis matched his career high with 24 points and Princeton shot 68 percent from the field to rout Harvard. The Tigers, who crushed Dartmouth 71-39 the previous night, won their 11th in a row and beat Harvard for the 15th straight time. Bill Ewing scored a career-high 12 points for Harvard, which played without Dan Clemente, its freshman star.

No. 12 New Mexico 77, Colorado State 62 Clayton Shields scored 25 points and New Mexico converted five straight Colorado State turnovers into 11 points in the second half to extend the Lobos' home winning streak to 40 games.

Tennessee 70, No. 13 South Carolina 69 Tony Harris, a freshman, scored 22 points and made a key steal in the waning seconds to lead host Tennessee to victory in Knoxville. The Vols won their fourth straight Southeastern Conference game, their longest streak in the league in nine years. Brandon Wharton scored 19 points as the Volunteers broke South Carolina's seven-game winning

streak. B.J. McKie led the Gamecocks with 27 points.

No. 14 Arkansas 93, Vanderbilt 83 In Fayetteville, Arkansas, Nick Davis scored 24 points and Pat Bradley bounced back from missing his first six shots to score all 17 of his points in the final 9:11 as Arkansas beat tenacious Vanderbilt. Austin Bates scored 16 points to lead Vanderbilt.

St. John's 77, No. 15 West Virginia 69 In New York, Felipe Lopez and Lavar Postell each scored 17 points and St. John's closed the game with a 10-4 run to snap West Virginia's five-game winning streak. Greg Jones led the Mountaineers with 23 points.

No. 16 Michigan State 75, Iowa 64 Antonio Smith scored 17 points and had 12 rebounds while reserve Morris Peterson added 14 points as Michigan State stayed atop the Big Ten standings with a home victory in East Lansing. Ricky Davis, a freshman, led Iowa with 18 points.

No. 17 Mississippi 75, Alabama 74 In Oxford, Mississippi, Jason Smith scored the game-winning dunk with 13 seconds left as Mississippi snapped a three-game losing streak. Demetrius Alexander scored Alabama's last 10 points before being called for an offensive foul with 24 seconds left. Ansu Sesay led Ole Miss with 19 points, his 44th straight double-digit scoring game, but was on the bench the final 3:37 after fouling out. Brian Williams scored 27 points, including five 3-pointers, to lead Alabama.

Minnesota 88, No. 18 Michigan 78 Eric Harris scored 24 points and host Minnesota made 14 of 20 3-pointers in the upset. The Gophers shot 56 percent for the game. Sam Jacobson and Quincy Lewis each added 19 points for Minnesota, while Kevin Clark had 17, including four 3-pointers. Maceo Baston led Michigan with a career-high 27 points.

Seton Hall 85, No. 19 Syracuse 61 Seton Hall ended 16 years of futility, winning for the first time ever in Syracuse's Carrier Dome by holding the Orangemen to one field goal over the final 12 minutes of the first half. While Syracuse was cold, Seton Hall hit a season-high 14 3-pointers on 24 attempts, led by Donnell Williams and Levell Sanders who each had five and finished with 23 points. Shaheen Holloway added a career-high 14 assists, along with 11 points. Seton Hall had lost all 16 games played in the Carrier Dome since its opening in 1981. Syracuse was led by Todd Burgan's 17 points.

No. 25 Maryland 68, Florida State 62 Rodney Elliott scored 10 of his 16 points in the second half, including two free throws with 48 seconds left, as Maryland recovered from an 11-point deficit to win in Tallahassee, Florida.

Laron Profit also scored 16 points for the Terrapins. Obinna Ekezie added 11 points and a game-high 9 rebounds for Maryland. Corey Louis led Florida State with 17 points and 8 rebounds.



The Rangers' Bob Corkum, right, catching up with the Coyotes' center, Craig Janney.

NBA All-Star Game Prelude Fizzles

Players Generate Little Razzle-Dazzle and \$1 Million Shot Misses Mark

By Chris Sheridan
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The National Basketball Association's annual gimmickfest on the eve of the All-Star Game went over like a lead balloon Saturday night, playing to a sellout crowd so unimpressed that thousands — despite paying \$100 per ticket — left early.

"They should have had the slam-dunk contest," said the film director Spike Lee, an avid Knicks fan and a regular at Madison Square Garden.

Instead, the crowd sat silently through the debut of 2ball, a shooting skills contest won by Clyde Drexler of the Houston Rockets and Cynthia Cooper of the Houston Comets. 2ball was the event that replaced the dunk contest, which league officials felt had gone stale.

For All-Star Saturday they signed up several of the league's best-known stars to pair with players from the Women's National Basketball Association from the same city, but only the participants seemed to have an idea of what was going on.

The buzz did not build during the rookie game, either, which was won, 85-80, by the East as Zydrunas Ilgauskas of the Cleveland Cavaliers won the most valuable player award.

And the fans — or what remained of them — were lingering at the exit ramps as the 3-point shoot-out went down to the final round and Jeff Hornacek of the Utah Jazz defeated Hubert Davis of the Dallas Mavericks, 16-10.

Ilgauskas had four dunks during the rookie game and finished with 18 points. Tracy McGrady of Toronto, at 18 the youngest player in the league, made a spectacular windmill jam to start his string of three straight stunts, and Bobby Jackson of Denver was the winner of Dunk of the Night for catching a hard pass flung by Rodrick Rhodes and getting airborne for a wild finish that may have been the highlight of the night.

"It put a little excitement in the game. Everybody wanted to see a little razzle-dazzle," Jackson said.

Saul Holzman of New York, a fan who last month drew the winning ticket and the right to make a basket for \$1 million, appeared calm as he took the court.

The 40-year-old former guidance counselor, attempting a two-handed overhead shot, seemed to lose his balance at the point of release. His shot was short and to the left, making million-dollar shot contestants 0-for-4 in All-Star Saturday history.

As a consolation prize, Holzman received a Pontiac Sunfire convertible, Sony stereo equipment and two \$5,000 checks.

The 2ball competition seemed to confuse the crowd, which didn't know the rules and did not know how many points each team had scored until the public address announcer reported it long after each pair of competitors had finished.

Cooper, the MVP in the WNBA's inaugural season, and Drexler defeated Karl Malone of the Utah Jazz and Tammy Reiss of the Utah Starzz, 73-61, in the final round.

CRICKET

WEST INDIES VS. ENGLAND
SECOND TEST, 4TH DAY AT TEA
SECOND INNING OF SPAIN, THURSDAY
England: 214 and 238
West Indies: 191 and 104-2

SPAIN VS. PAKISTAN
FOURTH DAY MATCH, THIRD DAY
SUNDAY IN EAST LONDON, SOUTH AFRICA
Pakistan: 222 and 124
South Africa: 171 and 104-2

Border won by seven wickets.

NEW ZEALAND VS. AUSTRALIA
ONE-DAY MATCH
SUNDAY IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand: 215-2
Australia: 215-2

Australia won by seven wickets.

NEW ZEALAND VS. ZIMBABWE
FOUR-DAY MATCH, FIRST DAY
SUNDAY IN DURBAN, NEW ZEALAND
New Zealand: 149-4
Zimbabwe: 67

New Zealand: 149-4

Zimbabwe: 67

New Zealand: 149-4

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RUGBY UNION

FRANCE 24, ENGLAND 17
Ireland 16, Scotland 17

Wales 20, Italy 20

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TRANSITIONS

BASEBALL
BOSTON — Agreed to terms with INF Donnie Schatz on 1-year contract.

CLEVELAND — Named Felix Fermin manager.

NEW YORK — Agreed to terms with LHP Darryl Strawberry on 1-year contract.

SEATTLE — Agreed to terms with RHP Bob Byrd on 2-year contract.

TAMPA BAY — Agreed to terms with P Chuck Butler on 1-year contract.

ATLANTA — Agreed to terms with LHP Dave O'Brien on 1-year contract.

NEW YORK — Agreed to terms with RHP Eric Carter on 1-year contract.

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WINTER OLYMPICS

OLYMPIC BRIEFS



STORMY WEATHER — A worker shoveling snow from the men's downhill course during a blizzard on Sunday.

Olympic Mayors Suggest Cost Cuts

Cities that want to host future Olympic Games should rely more on existing sports facilities, rather than build new ones, even if that means holding some events in neighboring countries, the mayor of Nagano, Tsukada Tsukada, said Sunday.

Tsukada said reducing construction would become increasingly important because of the swelling expense of hosting the games.

Tsukada attended a meeting with the mayors of five other cities that have served as Winter Games hosts. "The number of facilities and sports at the Olympics is growing," making the host's role more costly, he said.

Nagano invested \$693 million in the construction of five major facilities inside the city limits, about 20 percent above initial forecasts.

In a joint statement, the mayors said construction should be limited for future games because of cost and environmental reasons.

Audun Tron, the mayor of Lillehammer, Norway, the 1994 host, said that idea was a part of his city's joint bid with Helsinki for the 2006 games. Among the facilities that Lillehammer could offer, he said, were the bobsled and luge venue. (AP)

Some Countries Started Without Their NHL Stars

ICE HOCKEY National Hockey League stars Peter Bondra and Olaf Kolzig will soon find out whether there is such a thing as the Olympics as "better late than never."

They are stuck back in the United States in regular league competition while their teams — Slovakia and Germany — play their first two games in Nagano. Since only two of eight teams will advance from the five-game preliminary round, even one loss can be critical.

Germany, which last week sent home two injured players, opened the tournament by beating Japan, 3-1, despite playing without Kolzig, an All-Star goalie, 6-foot-6 defenseman Uwe Krupp and San Jose forward Marco Sturm.

"We are all supposed to have Dream Teams. Unfortunately, it's more of a nightmare situation," said George Kingston, the German coach. "Those three can be in the air, coming here for Game 3, and maybe we've already lost."

Slovakia played its first two games without Bondra, Robert Svehla, Zigmund Palffy, Miroslav Satan and three other NHL players. The Slovak team, also weakened by the flu, could only tie Saturday's opener against Austria, 2-2. It beat Italy 4-3 on Sunday. After the game Jan Sterbak, the Slovak coach, said he expected to add two NHL players for Tuesday's showdown with Kazakhstan. He said one would be Robert Svehla, a Florida Panthers defenseman. He did not name the other. "It depends on how they feel after the 20-hour flight," he said. (NYT, AP)

Daehlie Chases Record

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING Bjorn Daehlie will be chasing his sixth gold medal in the men's 30-kilometer cross-country race Monday. Victory would give him more gold medals than any other man in Winter Olympic history.

Daehlie won two golds in Lillehammer in his native Norway in 1994.

The 30K is the first of five races Daehlie has entered here. If he raises his total to seven golds, he will have more than any winter athlete, man or woman. (AP)

Happy to Be Here

SNOWBOARDING Mariano Lopez was the last one down and recorded the slowest time in the slalom on Sunday. But he wasn't upset.

"I finished 21st. I'll take it," the Argentine said after the inaugural gold medal for snowboarding in men's giant slalom was won by Ross Rebagliati of Canada. "I had been hoping I wouldn't embarrass myself," Lopez said.

Lopez, a 24-year-old from the Andes mountain resort of Bariloche, took up snowboarding eight years ago after seeing it on television. He had the worst times of any of the 21 finishers but at least he finished. He started ranked 33rd out of 34 in the field. The Greek snowboarder ranked 34th flamed out in the first run. (AP)

Imported Aggression Aids Japan's Hockey

Canadian 'Samurai' Bolster Home Team

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — The picture of Japanese delicacy, Noriko Ito looked out from beneath her perfect mascara, her doe eyes shining, and explained why she had come to see one of the ice hockey matches that opened the 1998 Olympic Winter Games.

"I'd like to see a fight," she explained sweetly. She glanced at the fray

Men's Ice Hockey

on the rink, smiled at her husband and their year-old son, and abruptly gave a lusty cheer for the Japanese team.

Japanese fans went crazy, but the team lost to Germany, 3-1 — after obliterating Ito with a fistfight. Still, Japan's team was seeded last and was hoping less to win than to teach the country a bit about a sport where aggressiveness is the best of etiquette.

So the loss did not dim Japan's pride — perhaps in part because Japanese players came out just fine in the fistfight — in an Olympics that began as brightly as the sun shining on the snow-covered mountains around Nagano.

The preliminary-round ice hockey games were the only action on the first day of the Olympics, aside from the opening ceremony attended by the emperor and empress. In other games, Kazakhstan beat Italy, 5-3; Austria tied Slovakia, 2-2, and Belarus beat France, 4-0.

A crowd of 9,861 watched the Japan-Germany game at Big Hat arena. But hockey is not popular in Japan, and the Japanese team faces many challenges, not least of which is the bewilderment that people sometimes show to a sport that revolves around aggression, body checks and other things they have been taught since nursery school are absolutely *dame*, or forbidden.

So, to learn a little aggression, Japan imported a crew of North Americans. The government recently approved applications for Japanese nationality by six professional Canadian players so that they could join the Japanese team. All or partly of Japanese extraction, they are known as the Six Samurai.

Two are ethnically all Japanese, and four are ethnically half-Japanese — but the government's willingness to grant nationality to people who spoke much better hockey than they did Japanese still raised eyebrows and tensions. Japan usually makes it difficult for foreigners to get Japanese nationality.

The Canadians have raised the level of the sport here, also making it more aggressive and physical. "At first it was pretty tame, and the older players were respected and nobody would hit them," said Ryan Kuwabara, one of the samurai, a fourth-generation Japanese-Canadian who grew up in Hamilton, Ontario. "But we came out and began to hit the old guys, too, and they saw that on ice we're all equal."

The arrival of North American sens-

ibilities, and shoulders, in a hierarchical and respectful community like hockey — or just about any other in Japan — has naturally caused some strains.

"We didn't make any friends, let's say that," said a laughing Dusty Imoo, who is ethnically half-Japanese and grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. "A lot of the team members were our enemies. But then they came to realize that it's just a job and it's just on ice."

In the end, the Canadian-born players won a measure of grudging respect even from their rivals.

"They've got excellent skills and they're very tough," said Hideji Tsuchida, a Japanese hockey player who is not on the national team — but who could be if the Six Samurai had not taken key slots. "They allow us to experience a higher level of game, and it's good for ice hockey in Japan. It makes our game rougher and tougher."

Of course, Japan has its own contact sports — sumo and judo, for example — but those are rooted in discipline and self-control, and one of the essential principles of Japanese society is maintaining self-control.

Hockey, on the other hand, is raw and emotional and always skating on the edge of losing control. The Japanese fans, many of whom had never seen hockey before, loved it.

"In Japan, we don't have the chance to see things this physical, so it's a lot of fun," said Ikuo Shibasaki, a 28-year-old woman cheering in the standing-room section of the stands.

Next to her, Masako Tamura, an office worker at a computer company, waved her Japanese flag and said she was thrilled as she stood on tiptoes and tried to peer through a sea of heads.

"It's so fast, with a bit of violence," she murmured, in a shocked tone. "It's so neat."

One of the problems the Japanese players face is simply size.

"Our players don't have any physical power," said Masaru Seino, a Japanese coach. "So we have to use our mental powers to outfox our opponents. We have to use teamwork. We have to use anything we have."

In Japan, hockey is popular really only in the northern island of Hokkaido. But Japanese players are hoping that the team's presence in the Olympics — even if it qualified only because Japan is the host country — will boost the exposure and popularity of the game.

"The Olympics is a big chance for us to develop this game," said Tsutomu Hanzawa, a former national coach who is now a hockey commentator for the Nikkan Sports newspaper. "These Canadians are great study material for us, and we can learn a lot from them. I wish we'd had them when I was coach."

The Canadian-born players are doing what they can to give the Japanese game what they describe as a bit more fire.

"Yeah," Imoo mused, "we try to stir things up a bit. The people watching think it's very cool."



Elizabeth Brown, a U.S. forward, fighting off opponents during the U.S. victory over China on Sunday.

At Last, Women Can Toss the Sequins

By Kevin Sullivan
Washington Post Service

NAGANO — Female skaters are the marquee athletes at the Olympics, the household names with faces and stories that dominate prime-time coverage of the Olympics. But those women have always been the ones wearing figure skates and sequins and stage make-up. On Sunday night, female athletes wearing shoulder pads and face masks and steel-toed hockey skates proved that there is more to graceful skating than triple toe-loops.

A new breed of women on ice introduced itself to the Olympics on Sunday as the United States scrapped and slapped its way a lopsided, 5-0 victory over China on the first day of women's hockey in Olympic history.

The American women's team, one of the top U.S. medal contenders, dominated the Chinese on a day that opened opportunities beyond figure skating for young girls everywhere who dream of Olympic gold.

"It's not just a man's game anymore," said Cammi Granato, the U.S. team captain, who scored twice. "We really feel like we're out here paving the way for all the women behind us."

Women's hockey is making its Olympic debut after decades of relative obscurity. While it has been largely overshadowed at these Games by Olympic men's hockey, which will have all the stars from the National Hockey League for the first time, the women's game is one of the most popular and watched additions to Olympic competition.

"I think this is doing a lot for young girls; they have a lot more dreams now," said Jenny Schmidgall, 18, a U.S. forward who had a goal and an assist

Sunday and will enter the University of Minnesota this autumn to play on the school's first women's hockey team.

In every Olympic games, a new sport emerges as the "hip" game of the moment. In Nagano, snowboarding and women's hockey have captured imaginations of athletes and spectators. Granato and her teammates, mostly well-spoken products of New England colleges, have been swamped by news organizations from around the world. Sue Merz, of Greenwich, Connecticut, a defender who played hockey in Switzerland after graduating from college, was interviewed by a Swiss television station in German.

"Our top priority is to win a medal," Merz said. "But for all those young girls out there, they can look these women playing and say, 'I want to be like that, Mom.'"

Women's hockey is markedly different from men's game. Skating is slower and shooting is weaker, but it is played with great skill by the top teams here. The Americans played a precision passing game that gave them almost continuous possession of the puck. The Americans outshot the Chinese, 31-10, and the U.S. goalie, Sarah Tuerling, did not make a save that required pads until the third period.

Body-checking is illegal, so there is none of the violent crashing and banging that television viewers are accustomed to when watching men play. An American player was given a roughing penalty for a slap that was probably softer than the one she got from the doctor when she was born.

The women are also smaller than the men, but a lot bigger than their figure skating counterparts. The heaviest play-

er on the U.S. team is Angela Ruggiero, a 175-pound defender who weighs five pounds more than Jason Dungeen, the heaviest U.S. male figure skater. The lightest player, 127-pound forward Alana Blahoski, is still a lot bigger than the 79-pound figure skating sensation Tara Lipinski.

The Americans' crushing victory over China shows that women's hockey is still wildly uneven, with Canada and the United States, the No. 1 and 2 seeds in Nagano, dominating world play and other countries lagging far behind in a tournament that numbers only six teams. Canada crushed Japan on Sunday by the football-like score of 13-0 and Finland defeated Sweden by a touchdown, 6-0. That means the three top teams won by a combined score of 24 to nothing.

Although the U.S.-China game was even more one-sided than the score suggests, fans in the cavernous Aqua Wave rink, which looks like a hangar for jumbo jets, were still excited. A large contingent from the United States waved flags and screamed for the U.S. women.

"I think about girls growing up and knowing that there are more options for them than just figure skating," said Christina Dunn, 28, from Massachusetts, whose sister, Ticia, plays on the U.S. team. "These women are showing them that they can do something maybe a little more nontraditional."

Heather Norton, 23, from Maine, who played hockey at the University of New Hampshire, called the game "historic."

"So many women have spent their lives breaking down the barriers between men's and women's sports and breaking down old stereotypes," Norton said. "This game should have happened a long time ago."

The Name of the Game, The Main Event: Politics

Make Luge Not War (A Nice Thought, but...)

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — As someone has said regarding the travails of a politician much in the news lately, it is considerably better to make love, not war. Here in the snowy mountains of Japan, a similar sentiment has been expressed, which is, essentially, make love, not war.

A threat to the international attention given to the Winter Olympic Games, which began their skating and sleighing Saturday, stirred many members of the International Olympic Committee, as well as such formidable voices as the Japanese foreign minister to appeal for

peace in the world for at least two more weeks, or the duration of these Olympic Games.

There is, to use another old expression — co-opted from fencing — a rattling of sabers in the Gulf.

The U.S. government has decided that a military action may very soon be needed to compel a reluctant President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to quit building weapons of mass destruction and the hardware to deliver them.

"It is our hope," said Juan Antonio Samaranch, the International Olympic Committee president, "that the Olympic Truce will be observed."

In November, the Olympic committee persuaded members of the United Nations to write a statement saying that no war should be held during the Olympic Games, and that the skiers and bobsledders and skaters and curlers and snowboarders and hockey players and, yes, lugers, must continue on their merry way. This is a nice head-in-the-sand posture, and one not uncommon for the IOC.

If there is a war, imagine the distraction the IOC and the organizing committee would have to put up with.

A statement issued by the Organizing Committee for the XVIII Olympic Winter Games, said, "The desire for a lasting peace is universal. As these are the final Olympic Winter Games of this century, we intend to use this opportunity to launch an appeal that the 21st century be an era without armed con-

flicts, where people of all nations respect each other's dignity and join together to build a peaceful and better world."

It is difficult to espouse a more noble wish. But the reality of the situation is more pressing, and while "peace" is a powerful word emanating from that statement, so is the word "launch."

It has taken Japan and the busy beavers of the IOC much work to prepare for the Games here, at a cost estimated at \$10 billion.

This is more than the salaries of entire National Basketball Association teams, so attention must be paid.

"Politics," Samaranch said, "have no place in sport."

Of course not, except when World War I and World War II forced cancellation of the Games. Except when President Jimmy Carter decided the United States would boycott the 1980 Summer Games in Moscow, and the Soviet Union responded in kind for the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Except when any of the other numerous boycotts have been held.

It is rare when politics does not play some role in sports, especially the Olympics: from votes on which city will be selected as host for the Games to decisions to ban certain countries, such as South Africa for its former apartheid laws, and even Japan, which was punished as an Axis power and was not permitted to participate in the 1948 Olympics.

In 1972, Palestinian terrorists slaughtered 11 Israelis during the Munich Olympics in 1972.

Avery Brundage, the IOC president at the time, decided that the Games were too important not to continue, even for a proper period of mourning. "The Games must go on," Brundage announced.

But now, according to Sandy Berger, national security adviser to President Bill Clinton: "We must deal with what is of overriding importance. We have to do whatever is necessary."

This is a rational approach and not inconsistent with the history of politics and sports. Especially where the Olympics has been concerned.

Yes, it is sweeter to make love, not war, but people should not kid themselves that games can prevent wars.



Hiroyuki Noake of Japan, left, and Steven Elm of Canada racing in the 5,000-meter speed skating event Sunday.

SKATE: Aided by Technology, 3 Men Pulverize Olympic Record

Continued from Page 1

was only on Friday that they received approval from the sport's governing body, the ISU, to use them in competition. Romme and his teammates, along with Veldkamp, attached them to their hoods and their lower legs. And though American skaters already were scheming to capitalize on the same physics principles and wore suits with vertical seams on the thighs, it appears the Dutch came out ahead in the arms, or should we say, legs race.

"Maybe the strips helped us," said Romme, 24. "But I think the most important part was the good skating. This was not beating the clock. This was beating it up. First came Veldkamp, a skater of fortune who is Belgian in passport only and who left the Dutch national team after the 1994 Olympics because he felt its qualification process and training priorities were wrong-headed."

He has been competing for Belgium in World Cup events and training alone since the 1995-96 season. With considerable help from lawyers, he acquired Belgian nationality last July, which also made him eligible to be a

Belgian in the Olympics. Veldkamp orbited the M-Wave's oval in a time of six minutes and 28.31 seconds, thereby erasing the world mark of 6:30.63 that Romme set in December.

Veldkamp's joy was as great as it was brief because as soon as the ice had been resurfaced, Veldkamp's former Dutch teammate, Rintje Ritsma, completed the requisite 12-and-a-half laps in 6:28.24. Ritsma would have even less time to savor his place in history. Fifteen minutes after he finished exulting with the hundreds of orange-clad Dutch skating groups who had made the pilgrimage to Japan, it was Romme's turn for a multiple tour de force.

Romme likes to joke that he was made in Made (the name of his home city), and his father was interested in making him into a soccer star when he named him for Italian player Gianni Rivera. Instead, Romme became the world's top distance skater, and by the time he completed three laps Sunday, Ritsma knew his record would never make it to a book.

"It was easy to watch after that," Ritsma said.

What surprised Romme was how

easy it felt to do. At 600 meters, he was already 1.6 seconds ahead of Ritsma's pace. By 2,600 meters, he was nearly four seconds ahead, and by the time he crossed the finish line, he was ahead of even his own lofty expectations.

"When I started, I thought the winning time would be 6:27," he said.

Instead, it was 6:22.20, which even in this new age of clap skates, aerodynamic accessories and easy glory was enough to make veterans go slightly weak in the knees. "Fantastic; he skated a perfect race," said Johann Olav Koss, the Norwegian who won three gold medals and set three world records in the distance events at the last Olympics, in Lillehammer, Norway.

The now-retired Koss, in Nagano as a commentator for an Australian television network, won his golds and set his records on conventional skates. His 5,000 world record was 6:34.96.

Anyone who wants more should mark Feb. 17 on his or her Olympic calendar. That is the date of the men's 10,000, the last event in which Koss still holds a world record. "Not for long," Koss said. "Romme will beat that by 25 or 30 seconds."

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مبارك الله"

Pair of Boots Shines Bright As German Sails Ahead

The Associated Press
NAGANO, Japan — Georg Hackl, a two-time Olympic gold medalist, found two ways to rattle his rivals Sunday in the opening runs of the luge race: He brought out a new pair of golden boots and shattered the track record twice.

The United States and Canada both filed protests against the German's boots.

After Hackl beat the track record on his first run, the two countries claimed

Luce

the gear was not made available to other competitors and that the angle of the boots was illegal, allowing them to cut through the air better.

While the jury was deliberating, Hackl was busy shattering the record again on his second run. He smiled when the protests were thrown out. "They are yellow," said Hackl, who estimated that his new footwear gave him a two-hundredths of a second advantage on each run. "If they were black, no one would say anything. But they look new and strange. They are within the rules."

"It's not my problem. They have a very good aerodynamic shape, and that's the advantage," Hackl said. And it translated into a 213-second edge over Armin Ziegler of Italy. Markus Prock of Austria was a distant third, 401 behind.

Four years ago, Hackl rallied on the final day to beat Prock and win his second straight gold. This time around, it almost appears he can coast.

"It was a good day for me and I hope it is a good day tomorrow also," Hackl said. "I feel very good. The only question now is a long time tomorrow."

The German coach, Thomas Schwab, said the Olympics' technical commission had approved Hackl's footwear before the race and the protests had no chance of succeeding.

Hackl, the luge master of the Bavarian Alps, negotiated the best line of the day, keeping his head down through the twisting 15-turn course. Hackl, who had disc surgery in October, finished with a combined time of 1 minute, 39.19 seconds.

"Hackl is very, very fast," said Prock, who has won silver behind Hackl in the past two Olympics. "He's a class alone. The best I think I can do is bronze."

Hackl started the day in championship style. After a quick paddle at the top of the run with his black spiked gloves, the Bavarian soldier, whose stocky 173-centimeter (5-foot-8), 82-kilogram (180-pound) frame defines the laws of aerodynamics, hopped on his sled and began his run.

Lying motionless on his luge, Hackl finished the first run in 49.619 seconds, then came back with a run of 49.573 seconds.

The defending world champion had complained before the start about unfavorable weather, including fresh snow on the track.

But Hackl performed flawlessly in the unfavorable conditions.



Olga Danilova of Russia, mother of twin boys, skiing to victory Sunday in the 15-kilometer Nordic skiing event.

High Honors for Working Mothers

In 15-Kilometer Cross-Country Race, They Take the Top 3 Spots

By Christopher Clarey
New York Times Service

HAKUBA, Japan — The first gold medal of the 1998 Winter Olympics was won Sunday by a cross-country skier named Olga Danilova, but it was more than a victory for Danilova and her native Russia. It was also a victory for working mothers everywhere.

Danilova missed all of the 1995-96 season after giving birth to twin boys, Simeon and Savili. Since then, she has juggled her skiing and her children, who are now 2 years old. Lately, the skiing had been Danilova's priority as she focused on her first Winter Olympics.

"It has been a long time since I have seen my boys," Danilova, 27, said after winning the 15-kilometer classic event in 46 minutes 55.4 seconds.

Danilova, who lives in Alexandrov, near Moscow, was not the only mother wearing a medal when the race at Snow Harp, the Nordic skiing venue, came to

a close. Her 32-year-old roommate, Larisa Lazutina, who won the silver medal by finishing just 5.6 seconds behind, has an 8-year-old daughter named Alisa. Norway's 30-year-old Anita Moen-Guidon, who took the bronze, has a 6-year-old daughter named Karoline.

Moen-Guidon seriously considered retirement after last season because she

wanted to spend more time with her child. But after the Norwegian Ski Federation agreed to let her train alone at home in the summer and early autumn, she continued, and on Sunday she finally won an individual Olympic medal. When she realized it, Moen-Guidon screamed with joy and embraced her coaches.

Lazutina had started in 20th position, Danilova in 29th. At the 8.5-kilometer split, Lazutina led by three seconds. By the 12.4-kilometer mark, Danilova had cut that lead to less than a second. After

she successfully negotiated the long and treacherous final slope, Danilova, who was not selected to compete in the last Olympics, powered her way to the gold.

"She came past me like some kind of wonder woman," said the American Nina Kemppel, who finished 53d. "It was on a really steep hill, about a 10 percent grade, which is steep for cross-country, and she didn't pause a bit. The Russians are so strong in the legs and arms. Even though the Swedes and Norwegians have better technique, the Russians have the power."

One Russian who did not have the power Sunday was Yelena Vaelbe, who swept the individual events at the world championships in Trondheim, Norway, last year and has been the dominant World Cup skier for most of this decade. But after finishing 17th Sunday, she is still searching for her first individual Olympic gold and may even be dropped from the Russian team for some of the four remaining events.

CROSS-COUNTRY SKIING

American Leads in Moguls' Qualifying

The Associated Press

IIZUNA KOGEN, Japan — Jonny Moseley, an American, led the men's qualifying ahead of two Finns in the Olympic freestyle moguls Sunday, while Anne-Marie Belchat of Canada led the women's field and a French star failed to finish.

One of America's top female hopes barely made it to the finals Wednesday. Ann Battelle, a gold-medal favorite, snagged the 16th and final spot when Candice Gilg of France, a two-time world champion, skied off the course.

Battelle had a poor run and found herself in 16th with Gilg still to ski. But Gilg, trying a "helicopter" spin in which she turns 360 degrees in the air on the first of two jumps, fell off balance and nearly stopped.

She continued for the second jump but, disheartened after the error, skied

off the course and stopped, giving Battelle the final qualifying spot.

"I could have fought harder but I knew it was a huge mistake and I didn't have the energy to fight back," Gilg said.

Battelle was relieved. "I thought I

FREESTYLE SKIING

skied good enough for the top 10, but when I saw I was 16th I thought my Olympic experience was over," she said.

Donna Weinbrecht of the United States, the gold medalist in the event in the 1992 Olympics, tied for first with Belchat with 23.35 points. A tie-breaking procedure gave Belchat the top spot, although the skiers start from scratch in the final Wednesday.

Liz McIntyre of the United States, the

1994 silver medalist, tied with Tarjana Mittermayer of Germany for third.

In the men's event, Moseley scored 26.53 points. The Finnish skiers Janne Lahtela and Sami Mustonen were second and third with 25.43 and 25.16 points.

Jean-Luc Brassard of Canada, the defending gold medalist from the last Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, Norway, had some ragged jumps and placed seventh in qualifying.

Moseley cemented his top spot in qualifying by doing a unique 360-Mute-Grab jump. Among the freestyle skiers, he is the only one to master it.

"I plan to do it all week. I wasn't sure I would be able to do it with all the pressure and different situations," Moseley said. "It's one thing on the World Cup, but the Olympics are a different story."

Cheers for Everyone, On or Off the Boards

Rebagliati of Canada Strikes Gold Before Snow and Fog Hit Course

Completed by Our Staff From Nagano

YAMANOUCHI, Japan — Fog and snow descended on Mount Yakebitai on Sunday afternoon, helping to turn the snowboarding men's giant slalom on its head.

Ross Rebagliati of Canada became the sport's first gold medalist, winning the men's giant slalom with a two-run combined time of two minutes 3.96 seconds.

Thomas Prugger of Austria finished second in 2:03.98, two-hundredths of a second behind Rebagliati. Ueli Kestenholz of Switzerland was third in 2:04.08.

Of the three medalists only Prugger had appeared to be in contention after the first run in the morning, which began

MEN'S SNOWBOARDING

in bright sunshine. He entered the break in third place behind the leader, Jasey-Jay Anderson of Canada, and Chris Klug of the United States.

It seemed as if the sport would have a glorious beginning in the Olympics. A crowd of 7,912 cheered the snowboarders all the way down the hill and applauded even those who had fallen when they belatedly reached the finish.

"Even 100 yards up the mountain, in the trees, the Japanese were screaming," Klug said. "They were stoked."

But after only five competitors descended in the second run in the afternoon, clouds covered the sky, snow began to fall and fog engulfed the course. There was a 10-minute delay before officials ruled there was enough visibility on the course to resume.

The decision might not have been fair to the competitors who had later rides.

Anderson, who went last among the top 15 because he finished first in the morning run, dropped to 15th place after nearly falling at the top of the course.

Klug, who went immediately before Anderson, started off well enough. He had the fastest time at the halfway point, but he caught his arm on the corner of a gate and finished sixth.



Ross Rebagliati heading to victory before the weather turned bad Sunday.

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

MEDALS

MEDAL STANDINGS

Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Netherlands	1	0	0	1
Russia	1	0	0	1
Canada	1	0	0	1
Belgium	0	0	1	1
Norway	0	0	1	1
Switzerland	0	0	1	1

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING

WOMEN'S 15 KM

1. Olga Danilova, Rus., 46 min. 55.4 sec.	2. Larisa Lazutina, Rus., 47:01.8, at 5.6 sec.	3. Anita Moen-Guidon, Nor., 47:52.6, 57.2	4. Lina Toral, Can., 48:10.2, 1:14.8	5. Heidi Johansen, Nor., 48:15.6, 1:23.6	6. Anne-Marie Belchat, Can., 48:19.0, 1:23.6	7. Ingrid Isaksson, Swe., 48:27.7, 1:23.9	8. Ingrid Isaksson, Swe., 48:27.7, 1:23.9	9. Ingrid Isaksson, Swe., 48:27.7, 1:23.9	10. Ingrid Isaksson, Swe., 48:27.7, 1:23.9
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FIGURE SKATING

PAIRED SKATING PROGRAMME

1. Oksana Kazakova/Alexei Nikitich, Rus., 2:25.22	2. Mandy Watson/Steve Storer, Germany, 2:25.22	3. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	4. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	5. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	6. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	7. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	8. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	9. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	10. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22
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SNOWBOARDING

MEN'S GIANT SLALOM

1. Ross Rebagliati, Can., 2 min. 3.96 sec. (1st leg 1:03.87, 2nd leg 1:04.09)	2. Thomas Prugger, Austria, 2:03.98	3. Ueli Kestenholz, Swi., 2:04.08	4. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	5. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	6. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	7. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	8. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	9. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08	10. Dieter Krumpholtz, Austria, 2:04.08
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FIGURE SKATING

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FIGURE SKATING

PAIRED SKATING PROGRAMME

1. Oksana Kazakova/Alexei Nikitich, Rus., 2:25.22	2. Mandy Watson/Steve Storer, Germany, 2:25.22	3. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	4. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	5. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	6. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	7. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	8. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	9. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	10. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22
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FIGURE SKATING

PAIRED SKATING PROGRAMME

1. Oksana Kazakova/Alexei Nikitich, Rus., 2:25.22	2. Mandy Watson/Steve Storer, Germany, 2:25.22	3. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	4. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	5. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	6. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	7. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	8. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	9. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22	10. Elena Berezhnaya/Alexei Zhigalkin, Rus., 2:25.22
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HOW TO COVER A LONG DISTANCE IN A SHORT TIME.



Consider it done.

